

### Israeli settlers seize land in protest over attack

ELON MOREH (AFP) — Around 20 Jewish settlers on Thursday occupied a parcel of land near their West Bank settlement of Elon Moreh after one of their cars was raked with machine gun fire. The settlers are threatening to put up a makeshift settlement on the land unless they are given greater protection by the Israeli army, witnesses said. Unknown attackers opened fire in the early hours of Friday on the car of the settlement's rabbi, military sources said. They said the car was hit, but that nobody was hurt. Two Israeli border guards were wounded near Nablus on Wednesday when a roadside bomb exploded as they escorted a bus transporting Jewish students.

# Jordan Times

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## Fifteen Palestinians shot in Hebron as clashes escalate

HEBRON (R) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least 15 Palestinians, two seriously, on Friday as bullets and petrol bombs flew in the West Bank flashpoint of Hebron, witnesses said. They said masked Palestinians flung scores of petrol bombs at Israeli soldiers who fired rubber-coated metal bullets from rooftops and from behind barricades along Shallah Street, which divides Hebron into Israeli and Palestinian National Authority (PNA)-controlled sections.

Medics at a Palestinian field clinic set up behind the line of clashes said they evacuated at least 15 people who were knocked down by the rubber-coated metal bullets. They said two teenagers were in serious condition after being shot in the head.

Israeli military sources said in a statement troops used "crowd-control methods" against Palestinians hurling stones, Molotov cocktails and one homemade bomb. The statement said there were no casualties on the Israeli side.

Hebron has been a scene of almost daily unrest since a right-wing Jewish woman plastered storefronts with anti-Muslim posters depicting the Muslim Prophet Muhammad as a pig two weeks ago. Israel-PNA peace talks have been frozen for four months.

Religious feelings were further inflamed when Palestinians found Al Yacoubia School was ransacked and four copies of the Koran torn up. Palestinians charged Israeli sol-

diers desecrated the holy books but the Israeli army denied the charge. The clashes began when five masked youths burned two Israeli flags while others attacked a group of soldiers holed up inside the school.

Some of the demonstrators used slingshots. Witnesses said more than 130 petrol bombs were thrown at soldiers, setting the stone-strewn road between the embattled groups on fire. They said two explosions were heard, apparently from homemade bombs.

Israel handed over most of Hebron, home to more than 100,000 Palestinians, to the PNA in January under a self-rule deal but kept troops behind to guard some 400 Jewish settlers living in the heart of the old city.

Israeli troops have ringed the city with checkpoints, turning back Palestinians from nearby villages. The siege, described by Israel as necessary for security, has hurt the economy of the town which depends on trade with Palestinians outside Hebron.

### Ten Palestinians injured in clashes in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Ten Palestinians were injured here Friday in clashes with Israeli soldiers who fired plastic bullets after being attacked by petrol bombs, witnesses said. One protester, 22-year-old Daoud Khattab, was seriously wounded after being struck by live ammunition, and later had a leg amputated, the sources said. The violence erupted when around 100 Palestinian demonstrators converged on Rachel's Tomb, a holy site venerated by both Muslims and Jews which is guarded by the Israeli army.

## Arab League calls for concrete U.S. action

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League called Thursday for

the United States to translate its announcement of new moves to relaunch the Middle East peace process into concrete actions.

U.S. President Bill Clinton hinted Wednesday in Madrid at "new specific actions" to jumpstart the deadlocked process but said discretion was important to ensure the success of his endeavour.

"It is obvious that we're going to have to see some new specific actions taken in order to get this thing going again," Mr. Clinton said. "I think it can be done. It is a question of will and risk, calculated risk," he added.

Assistant League Secretary General Mohammad Zakareya Ismail told reporters: "This isn't the first time that the United States has made such an announcement."

He called for the U.S. administration to "take concrete measures on the ground."

"Speaking only of ideas on restarting the peace process gives Israel time to make Jerusalem Jewish," he warned.



Israeli soldiers jump as a petrol bomb explodes near them during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron Friday. Clashes between Palestinian and Israeli soldiers continue as 11 Palestinians and 2 Israeli soldiers were reported injured (AFP photo)

## Israeli premier to disappoint all lest he changes policy — King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed his disappointment with the performance of the Israeli government and leadership vis-à-vis the Middle East peace process, but he expressed hope that the future will witness improvement and will carry hope to the people of the region.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Television, the King said that the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would disappoint himself and the Israeli people as well as all peoples who believe in peace if he pursued the present policies.

King Hussein, who returned to Amman Thursday following a tour of European countries where he discussed the Middle East crisis among other issues, said that the parties to the Middle East peace process should be committed to the pledges they had undertaken so that peace can be achieved.

Noting that he would continue to deal with the Israeli prime minister as long as he is in power, the King pointed out that he had offered Mr. Netanyahu all possible backing towards pursuing peace negotiations.

But the King noted that Israel is at present rife with internal political struggle.

Expressing deep concern over the stalled peace process, the King said that all concerned parties should work intensively to salvage the peace process and help the people of this region who had suffered for long, to reap the fruits of peace.

Stressing the importance of peace for the Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese, the King said that everything possible should be done to ensure the success of peace, adding that despite Egyptian and U.S. mediation efforts he has not yet witnessed tangible progress, warning that time was passing rapidly by and expressing concern that the loss of hope would result in explosions.

King Hussein expressed the view that contacts among the parties have not stopped but he warned that feelings of frustration such as those which manifested themselves in the Hebron violent events could ruin all hopes and return the region to square one.

He said that hatred was growing among the desperate people, and in the absence of security and stability, there can be no chance for peace.

Referring to the Jordanian people's stand towards peace, he said the peoples of the whole region have a

feeling that matters are not moving in the right direction. He said that he had struggled to see peace prevailing between the Israeli and Jordanian people because feelings of apprehension and concerns on both sides are similar.

Stressing the need for the peace process to progress along all tracks, the King said that he believes people are losing patience with politicians and leaders who are not offering them anything, because people are fed up with wars and bloodshed.

King Hussein reiterated that he is totally committed to the cause of peace despite the fact that peace is facing tremendous challenges, but he denied that he has other plans for the West Bank noting that the territory is now in the hands of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. However, he added, Jordan will continue to offer the Palestinian people all the help it can.

Asked about his health condition, the King said he enjoys perfect health noting that the recent tests have revealed no trace of cancer.

King Hussein said that his main concern is to serve his people and fulfil the objective of comprehensive peace for the benefit of future generations.

## U.N. retains sanctions on Libya after stormy session

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council retained sanctions against Libya on Thursday after African envoys argued for a compromise on the location of a possible trial of suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

Libya's U.N. Ambassador Abuzid Omar Dordah, blaming the council's stand on the United States and Britain, told reporters, "we can now on behave as if these sanctions were not there."

But when asked to explain, he said that Libya "would study this carefully with our brothers" in Africa.

The council appears at an impasse in forcing Libya to extradite to Britain or the United States two alleged intelligence agents indicted in both countries on charges of planting a bomb aboard Pan Am Flight 103. The plane exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing 270 people, including 11 on the ground.

African and Arab nations

have said the two suspects should be tried in a neutral site rather than Britain or the United States, as demanded in a 1992 council resolution. Diplomats say this encourages Tripoli to defy sanctions.

On the other hand, efforts to strengthen the sanctions, such as instituting an oil embargo like the one the council imposed on Iraq, would not draw the requisite votes.

The council's decision was announced by its president, Peter Osvald of Sweden, after a stormy two-hour closed-door debate in a periodic 120-day review of the sanctions.

These included an air and arms embargo, the downgrading of diplomatic relations, a freeze on some Libyan assets abroad, and a ban on some equipment used in oil terminals and refineries. But they did not affect oil exports or drilling equipment.

Egyptian Ambassador Nabil Elaraby said many council members supported Egypt, Kenya and Guinea-

Bissau's effort to find alternative venues for the trial and to have the United Nations study the impact of the sanctions on Libya and its neighbours.

"Today was not a routine review," he said. "Without a trial, no one can say who committed this heinous crime. The innocent people of Libya, the innocent people of neighbouring countries are suffering, and the Security Council, in my view, has not discharged its responsibility in this affair."

The Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity have proposed the two Libyan suspects be tried by Scottish judges under Scottish law at the World Court in the Hague or by a special criminal tribunal to be established there or in a neutral country determined by the council.

But the United States, France and Britain accused the groups of attempting to "misrepresent" the controversy as a dispute between Libya and their countries only.

## Stranded Iraqi athletes threaten a border sit-in over Pan-Arab Games

MASNA' (AFP) — Iraqi athletes stranded at the Lebanese border said Friday they would stage a sit-in to protest Lebanon's refusal to let them take part in the 8th Pan-Arab Games in Beirut.

"If Lebanon doesn't give us entry visas and allow us our right to participate in the games, then we will stage a sit-in on the border," said Asil Tabra, head of the 95-strong Iraqi delegation.

The athletes arrived Friday morning at Masnaa on the Syrian-Lebanese border after a gruelling 24-hour journey across the desert from Baghdad to Damascus — despite being warned they would not be allowed into Lebanon.

Ms. Tabra said the Iraqis "regretted" the position of the Lebanese authorities, not least because they had received an official invitation to the games from the Arab League.

"We are waiting for the authorities to tell us officially that they refuse to give us a visa because we won't take a verbal refusal," Ms. Tabra said.

It could be a long wait. Security officials say they have no intention of putting their refusal in writing. The Iraqi athletes rolled up at the border in five coaches plastered with giant colour posters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

As they got out brandishing the Iraqi flag and shouting slogans in praise of their president, Lebanese border guards herded them into a hangar and stopped journalists and cameramen from approaching them.

The Iraqis said they were happy to be in Lebanon but disappointed at Lebanese in-hospitality. A group of them was allowed into Lebanon briefly though to eat at a border restaurant.

A Lebanese official said the

authorities decided not to let the Iraqis take part in the Pan-Arab Games for fear of upsetting Gulf Arab states.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which have been pouring funds into Lebanon to help it rebuild after its 1975-1990 civil war, have threatened to boycott the games opening Saturday if Iraq participates.

Riyadh contributed \$20 million and Kuwait \$6 million to the reconstruction of the Beirut Sports City where the games are taking place.

The Iraqi National Olympic Committee, chaired by Saddam's eldest son Uday, has accused Lebanon of bowing to Gulf dollars in barring Iraq from the games. Beirut cut diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1994 after an Iraqi opposition figure was assassinated in the Lebanese capital.

But in January it released from jail three Iraqi diplomats implicated in the attack in a sign of a thawing of relations.

Since then, at Syria's instigation, Lebanon has begun to reactivate trade and diplomatic links with Iraq. In April a Lebanese trade delegation visited Baghdad for the first time since the break in ties. The new row over the games could threaten the fledgling trade ties between the two countries, which are important to Lebanon in that Iraq once was the destination of 20 per cent of its exports.

Iraq was banned from the last Pan-Arab Games in Syria in 1992 because of the invasion of Kuwait two years earlier, but its athletes travelled to Jordan anyway to demonstrate at the Syrian border.

The Pan-Arab Games were launched in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1953 and are generally held at four-

year intervals.

They had been planned for 1996 in Beirut, but were delayed because of Israel's offensive against Lebanon

which killed 175 people, mostly civilians. The last time Lebanon hosted the Pan-Arab Games was in 1957.



Iraqi athlete, Maysa Hussein, 18, is wrapped into her country's flag to protect herself from the sun, Friday in Masnaa at the Syrian-Lebanese border, where 95 Iraqi athletes are stranded after Lebanon refused to let them take part in the 8th Pan-Arab Games in Beirut July 12-27 (AFP photo)

## Majali to visit 3 more Arab countries

MUTAH (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Friday said that he will soon visit Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Morocco to discuss means of promoting bilateral relations.

Speaking at a meeting of the board of directors of the Karak Restoration Foundation, Dr. Majali said that he discussed in his last trips to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and Tunisia bilateral ties as well as joint investment projects.

Dr. Majali commended the Egyptian role in activating a common Arab market, saying that Jordan supports such an initiative.

Dr. Majali said that the government is now working on preparing suitable legislation in order to exercise decentralisation, pointing out to the efforts exerted in this regard.

Earlier, Dr. Majali told Sawt Al Arab Radio that Israel adopts a tactical position towards the peace process, noting that the Israeli government cannot

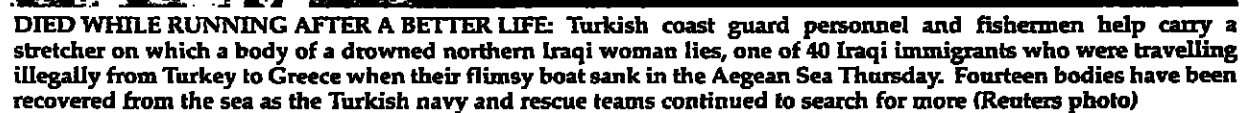
withstand such intransigent attitude for a long time.

"The Israeli intransigence will come to an end since peace is a basic need for the whole Middle East region and people as well as an Arab and international strategic choice which no party can evade," said Dr. Majali.

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ATHENS (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian officials on Friday pledged support for the peace process but failed to bridge gaps on Israeli security concerns and Palestinian demands for a freeze on settlements.

An Israeli delegate welcomed the three-day meeting ending near here Friday as a step forward in itself because the Israeli side included members of the right-wing governing coalition.

"A year ago such a meeting would not have been possible between the Israeli right, opposed to the Oslo

accords, and Palestinians. Today they are here and supporting the peace process," said the delegate who asked not to be named.

Although delegates from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party were absent, members of the Shas Ultra-Orthodox and Israel B'aliva parties were present along with representatives from the Geshet (centre), Labour and Communist parties.

During a press conference in Vouliagmeni, near Athens, Maxim Levy, a Geshet Party deputy and brother of Foreign Minister

**KUWAIT (R)** — Kuwaiti parliamentarians have criticised the government for moving to improve ties with Arab states which appeared to back Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a Kuwait newspaper reported on Friday.

"The government should have taken its time until parliament ends debates on the matter," leading MP Nasser Sanea was quoted by Al Rai Aam newspaper as saying.

In recent days Kuwait has taken measures which appeared to be the start of a slow process to improve ties with Jordan, Sudan and Yemen.

Parliament last month held secret sessions to discuss the government's plan to normalise ties with some Arab states which were soured by the Gulf crisis. Kuwait had downgraded ties and cut generous financial aid to several states which it accused of sympathising with Iraq during its 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait.

Another MP, Badr Ge'a'an, told the daily the government's recent moves were a "surprise" and criticised their speed.

Jordan and Kuwait this week resumed direct air links for the first time since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of the tiny Gulf Arab state while a Sudanese minister made the first visit to Kuwait since the crisis.

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Israeli security officials fear Islamist militant Palestinian groups may be planning a new round of attacks in case the stalemate in the peace process is ended, press reports said Friday.

A security source told the Yediot Aharonot daily the groups have been quiet for the past year because the peace process has been at death's door since the right-wing Israeli government took power.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, who are both fiercely opposed to the Oslo peace accords, launched a series of suicide bombings in 1994 and 1996 which helped push Israelis towards voting for the hardline platform of Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

In particular the groups launched four attacks in February and March last year, just two months before general elections, that left 58 people dead.

Israeli officials say supporters of the two organisations have been lying low in recent months, and have not taken part in violent anti-Israeli protests and attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The sources told the paper Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement was largely responsible for the upsurge of violence against the four-month stalemate in the peace process.

## True Path deputy quits in extra boost to Yilmaz

ANKARA (AFP) — Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz is to bring down the final curtain on Turkey's pro-Islamist government Saturday with a parliamentary confidence vote he is expected to win with ease.

As the Turkish military was bidding at the constitutional court to shut-down the pro-Islamist Welfare Party of ex-premier Necmettin Erbakan, Mr. Yilmaz was mustering his regular support for the rubber-stamp vote.

His secular coalition government can count on 281 votes in the 548-seat parliament, observers say.

Mr. Yilmaz staunchly secular cabinet, approved June 30 by President Suleyman Demirel, brings together members of his own Conservative Motherland Party (ANAP) and those of the Party of the Democratic Left (DSP) and the Party for a Democratic Turkey (DTP).

In Saturday's vote he will also get the backing of the 49-strong Social-Democratic People's Republican Party (CHP) and some 15 independent deputies, observers say.

That Mr. Yilmaz was able to put together a coalition at all works a triumph for Turkey's generals, who accused the Welfare Party of

threatening the country's secular traditions.

Their four-month campaign to secure the June resignation had prompted widespread fears of a coup.

The trickle of deputies quitting the right-wing True Path Party, protesting its leader Tansu Ciller's alliance with the Islamists, became a flood as the military campaign gathered pace.

On Wednesday, even Ms. Ciller's close aide Hassan Peker defected to the Yilmaz camp and earlier Friday Demir Berberoglu became the 39th deputy to resign from True Path since the December 1995 general elections.

On Thursday, the Turkish military acted to crush the pro-Islamist Welfare Party, submitting evidence to the constitutional court containing information "linking Welfare with outlawed Islamist fundamentalist activities."

Mr. Yilmaz and his two deputy premiers, DSP leader Bulent Ecevit and DTP member Ismet Sezgin, have mapped out an ambitious programme aimed mainly at strengthening Turkey's secular and democratic foundations and cleaning up the state apparatus.

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is reeling from a grisly series of murders of women in the Tehran area by a killer cab-driver who had allegedly entered the country from Afghanistan.

Dubbed "The Urban Vampire" by the press, Abdullah Abdul Rahman allegedly kidnapped, raped and murdered at least 11 women and then burned their bodies to destroy the evidence, officials said.

The 28-year-old "woman hunter," who confessed to selecting a passenger a week as a victim, is expected to be convicted and executed shortly, officials said.

The killing spree around the Iranian capital has relaunched a public debate on police efficiency and the growth of crime in urban areas — especially among Afghan refugees living in Iran.

In order to capture the serial killer, the police kept a large number of taxi drivers in the capital's hot spots under surveillance.

Abdul Rahman originally came here as a refugee and was arrested in 1993 for raping a young girl. He escaped from police while on the way to court, the Tehran police commander, General Yousef-Reza Abolfathi, said.

Abdul Rahman fled to Afghanistan but then illegally reentered Iran.

His alleged crimes are the number one topic of conversation in the country and the media in particular has been critical of police "laxity" and "inefficiency."

Iran News wrote Thursday that the parliament must come down hard on the interior ministry, which directs the police, to ensure its slackness is not repeated.

The government daily Iran said "hundreds of people are calling us every day to express their indignation."

Abdul Rahman's arrest has also cast a further shadow over the Afghan community here.

Iran is home to two million refugees, the highest number in the world, including Afghans, Bangladeshis and Iraqis, the interior ministry says.

The more than a million Afghan refugees in the country are already regularly accused of committing most of the crimes that are perpetrated in Iran.

## Turkish musician released from jail

ISTANBUL (R) — A leading Turkish musician and human rights activist accused of aiding Kurdish rebels said on Friday he had been released from prison pending the continuation of his trial.

Samar Yurdanapan was charged with "aiding an illegal organisation" after being arrested at the end of April in possession of two fake passports ordered for money.

**BEIRUT (AP)** — The Beirut Times, an English language daily focusing on business reporting, appeared on newsstands Friday, joining 13 other papers in Lebanon's crowded print media market.

Publisher Antoine Kehby said his newspaper would introduce a "unique concept in Lebanon and in the region" by providing specialised information to its readers.

"We want to tell bankers about other bankers, managers about other managers, investors about products, merchants about trade and the media about (themselves)," he told a news conference Thursday.

Mr. Kehby said Lebanon and the Middle East needed a "credible, English language business publication." He added that the need would increase "as regional markets expand and develop and as the hope for peace brings prosperity to the region."

The Beirut Times joins the English language daily *Star* and the French language *L'Orient Le-Jour* as Beirut's only foreign-language newspapers. All three are privately owned.

**PROGRAMME TWO**

15:35	..... French Programmes
16:00	..... Neighbour
16:10	..... French Programmes
19:00	..... News in French
19:30	..... News Headlines
19:35	..... Hangin With Mr. Coopers
20:00	..... Magazine Zero One
20:30	..... Prison
21:10	..... Time Trav
22:00	..... News in English
22:30	..... MacGyver
23:15	..... Feature Film

04:00	Fajr
05:34	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:49	Maghrib
21:22	'Isha

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HRH Crown Prince Hassan expresses his appreciation to workers who contributed to the building of two tunnels at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman. Prince Hassan inaugurated the tunnels Thursday (photo by Boghos)

## Crown Prince inaugurates tunnels at Third Circle

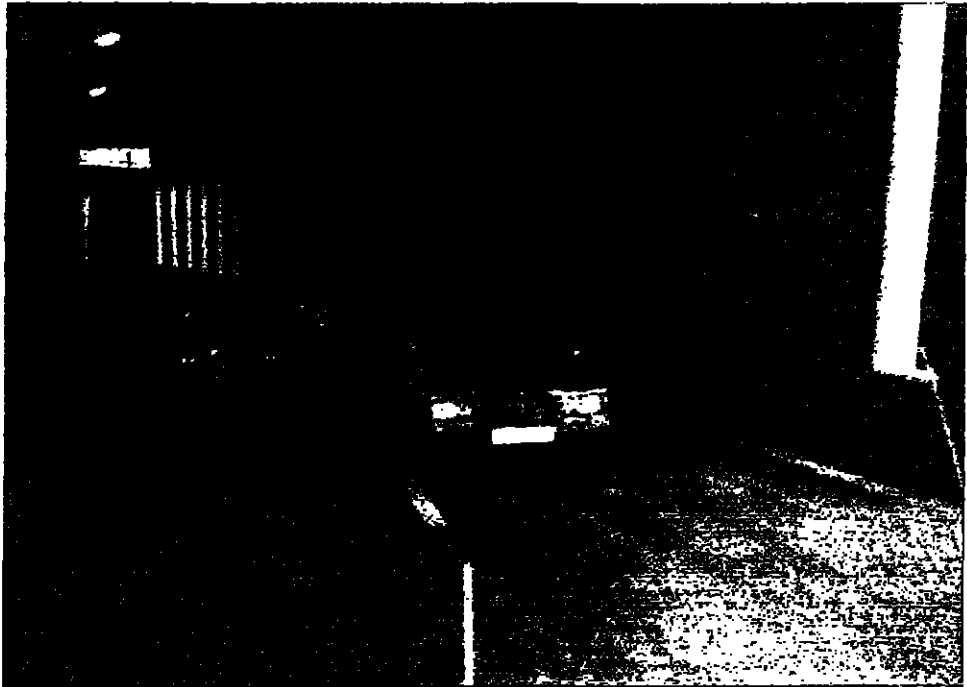
AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Thursday inaugurated two tunnels at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman. The tunnels were constructed over a period of 135 days at the cost of JD 15 million.

Prince Hassan, accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, met with those engineers and workers who participated in the project and thanked them for their efforts.

The first (300 metre) tunnel connects the second circle with the fourth, while the second (400 metre) tunnel connects Ras al Ain with the street leading to the Philadelphia Hotel.

According to Dr. Abbadi, the project is expected to reduce delays at the junction to a maximum of 18 seconds down from the previous 70. A survey conducted by the Amman municipality revealed that nearly 70 per cent of the city's traffic passes through these points, he added.

Dr. Abbadi paid tribute to



HRH Crown Prince Hassan drives his car through a newly-constructed tunnel at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman (photo by Boghos)

the workers and detailed the project, which, he said, is one of the most important projects to facilitate traffic inside the city.

The municipality is current-

ly constructing a 180 metre tunnel connecting the Wadi Haddadeh district with downtown Amman, he stated.

This tunnel, estimated to cost JD 3 to JD 4 million, is

expected to be completed in November by an Italian-Jordanian consortium.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji also attended the ceremony.

## Councils to study Muslim Brotherhood's decision to boycott 1997 general elections

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The executive councils of most political parties are scheduled to meet today to study the option of following the Muslim Brotherhood's Wednesday decision to boycott the 1997 general elections.

The Brotherhood's historic decision appears to have greatly impacted not only opposition parties, from leftists to Islamists, which are now discussing the possibility of a general boycott, but also centrist parties such as the pan-Arabist Al Mustaqbal, whose leader, Suleiman Arar, has confirmed that future electoral policy will be determined later today.

Of particular interest will be the outcome of deliberations by the Shura Council, (the higher guidance committee in Islamic organisations), of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the Brotherhood's political arm.

In a meeting to be held late this evening, the 120-member council is slated to decide whether to boycott the upcoming election or proceed with an election campaign benefit of the Muslim Brotherhood's support.

However, IAF Spokesperson

Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times that he doubts that a final decision will be taken today.

"I do not think there will be a final deliberation on Saturday," said Dr. Mansour, who Wednesday expressed disapproval of the Muslim Brotherhood's decision, stating that "the boycott is against the interest of the Jordanian people and the development of democratic life (in the Kingdom)."

"It will take a week or two before a final decision is made," he added.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the leaders of 11 opposition parties, including the IAF, has been scheduled for Monday by the head of the Higher Committee for Coordination Among the Opposition Parties, Salem Nahhas, "to study the Muslim Brotherhood's decision."

"What [is striking] about the (Brotherhood's) decision to boycott the elections is that it was very democratic and reflects the people's aspirations and feelings," Mr. Nahhas asserted.

"[The decision to boycott the elections] was not a leadership decision imposed from above, but [taken by] popular demand," he added.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that 63 per cent of the Muslim Brotherhood's Shura council,

(also known as the "Council of Thirty") members voted against participation in the 1997 elections, but observers say that the consensus to the boycott was much stronger in the Brotherhood's lower cadres.

When asked whether he believes that the 1997 elections will still be held this autumn, should a majority of parties decide in favour of a general boycott, Mr. Nahhas answered in the affirmative.

"Elections might be held regardless, even if only the National Constitutional Party (NCP) were to participate," he said.

The NCP, widely considered the government's party, has not scheduled any meeting to discuss the Brotherhood's decision, a party source said.

"It is their (the Brotherhood's) decision, and we do not see in which way it should affect our policies," the source maintained.

"[The NCP] electoral committee is working to prepare the election campaign and tickets, and we are going to participate (in the elections) as we have always said [we would]," he concluded.

## Court acquits Abu Khajil

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Court of Appeals Wednesday acquitted former Sri Lankan Honorary Consul to Jordan Tawfiq Abu Khajil of charges ranging from infant trafficking to forgery of official documents.

Mr. Abu Khajil, 57, had been convicted by the Amman Criminal Court in April of selling one baby, attempting to sell a second, forgery and usage of forged documents.

But in its ruling Wednesday, the Court of Appeals, headed by Justice Abdul Rahman Banna with Justices Mohammad Othman and Mansour Hadidi, overturned that decision and acquitted Mr. Abu Khajil on all 86 charges.

"I expected this verdict and I am very happy," Defence Attorney Ahmad Tubeishat told the Jordan Times.

"From day 1-first studied the case file, I knew that my client had been framed and that all charges were baseless," he added. "However, I was waiting for the judiciary to prove it."

Mr. Abu Khajil was formally charged in March 1996 with 36 counts of forgery of official documents, usage of forged documents, 36 counts of infant trafficking (illegal under a 1929 law prohibiting slavery), possession of unlicensed firearms, import of illegal wireless devices, abuse of trust and forgery of a government seal.

He was arrested shortly after airport police stopped a Dutch couple on March 13, attempting to leave the country with a child they thought to have had adopted after paying a sum of \$8,000.

Forged documents concerning the supposed adoption were found on the couple's person.

In its ruling, the Court of Appeals stated that no proof existed that the former consul either bought or sold any child, "rather what happened was an adoption, authorised by Jordanian and Dutch law."

The court also lessened the forgery charge to a misdemeanor and maintained that Mr. Abu Khajil was not responsible for any usage of forged documents.

The former consul had originally received a 14-year imprisonment term with temporary hard labour, later amended to three years due to apparent poor health.

Mr. Abu Khajil, currently free on bail, still faces trial at the Criminal Court on charges of raping four Sri Lankan women.

However, last year, all four women changed their initial statements and are now facing charges of perjury.

## Higher court revokes JPA ruling on editor

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Court of Justice last week revoked a Jordan Press Association (JPA) decision, passed February 26, which stipulated the fourth-month suspension of Al Urdun weekly Editor-in-Chief Musa Keilani from his editorial position.

The JPA based its decision on an article which it described as violating professional ethics.

The decision was taken by majority vote. However, Chairman of the JPA Disciplinary Board Hassan Tal voiced his opposition to the decision.

Dr. Keilani then filed a case against the JPA.

In a session held July 8, the Higher Court of Justice revoked the JPA decision, which it described as "illegitimate," as Dr. Keilani was neither permitted to speak in his own defence nor summon witnesses to testify before the JPA disciplinary board.

The JPA took its decision after a journalist filed a complaint stating that Al Urdun newspaper defamed journalism by publishing a story entitled "A prostitute and a journalist," covering a prostitute who was arrested in Madaba.

Dr. Keilani stated that in cases in which lawyers had been accused of various offences or medical doctors had been charged with malpractice, they had not been accused of distorting their professions or offending their peers.

"Why should only journalists be accused of distorting the profession when they publish such articles?" Dr. Keilani asked. "Are journalists angels?"

He maintained that his newspaper did not violate nor infringe on the professional ethics of the press by publishing the article in question.

## Jordan to participate in Palestinian business conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to participate in a Palestinian expatriate business conference in Palestine and will send an 80-member delegation there, Chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Murad announced Friday.

The conference is scheduled for July 21-24 and is to convene in Gaza and Bethlehem, he added.

According to Mr. Murad, the meeting is to be organised by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Jordanian delegation will group leading businesspersons and economists.

Stating that the Jordanian private sector is eager to bolster ties with Palestinians, Mr. Murad confirmed that the Jordanian delegation will also group the chambers of commerce, trade unions, and other organisations.

Jordan is eager to further

bolster ties with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Palestinian institutions and people, Mr. Murad affirmed.

The Jordanian private sector has been favourably responding to His Majesty King Hussein's policies in this direction and in maintaining strong ties with Palestinians, he said.

We are ready to cooperate with our Palestinian brothers and offer them aid in constructing a strong economic infrastructure to benefit Palestinians, Jordanians and their common aspirations, Mr. Murad asserted.

The conference will be held under the patronage of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and offers a great opportunity to the Jordanian business community as well as representatives of the private sector to explore prospects for future cooperation in trade, economy and joint ventures, he concluded.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crown Prince to open conference

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan today inaugurates a three-day European Mediterranean Partnership Conference at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. Prince Hassan will deliver the keynote address to the meeting, to be attended by nearly 1,000 businesspersons from 23 countries in Europe and the Mediterranean region.

### Palestinian meeting to convene in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian Affairs Department Director General Ibrahim Tarshihi today leaves for Cairo at the head of a Jordanian delegation to meetings of Palestinian affairs supervisors. Participating in the conference will be representatives from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and the Arab League.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### LECTURE

\* Lecture on the image of Westerners in the latest works of eight Arab writers by Dr. Mu'jib Al Zaharani at Darat Al Fannun, Jabal Weibdeh at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Art works by Salam Kain entitled "From Jerusalem to Nabulus" at the Jordan River Designs showrooms, Jabal Amman, until July 15 (Tel. 613081).

\* Photo exhibition entitled "Jerusalem in Danger" by Khalid Al Zaghari at the Modern Educational School, Khaldia, until July 31.

\* Photography exhibition by Jan Kassay at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until July 29.

\* Fifth exhibition of Korean products at the Amman International Motor Show, until July 7.

\* Paintings by Ali Al Ghoul at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

\* Silver Jewellery exhibition at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

\* Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment in Iraqi Art" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 22 (except Tuesdays).

\* Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition, showing works of 60 Arab artists, at Darat Al Fannun, Jabal Weibdeh until July 24.

## Arab women's conference ends on a determined note

By Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — That Arab women be possessed of a short and long-term political participation in the political sphere was the main recommendation of a four-day conference which concluded here Thursday.

The conference covered women's political participation in the Arab World and members therein debated the pros and cons of quotas for women residing in countries in the process of democratisation.

The conference attempted to answer two questions — the first related to women's political participation, especially in positions of decision-making, and how such might lead to an institutionalised democracy? The second question was related to the establishment of full democracy and how it might lead to women's enfranchisement in political life and therefore in the decision-making process.

Some of the participants argued that a women's quota at a stage in which the majority of the Arab World is not fully democratised would only increase the legitimacy of undemocratic regimes and make them seem more appealing.

Dalia Bizri, from Lebanon, stressed that a woman "appointed" as a result of a quota could only be a tool in the hands of any undemocratic regime where said government might bargain with the appointed women.

"In a worst case scenario, the social and political line of an undemocratic regime would [be considered more] acceptable," Dr. Bizri added.

She maintained that any political participation without a parallel modification in an

undemocratic political regime cannot change widespread detrimental opinions regarding women's political participation.

Under current conditions, she said, and due to a rise in Islamic fundamentalism, women's full enfranchisement is a card played by both the Islamists, who, she said, still evidence confusion towards women political participation in spite of changes in their political discourse, and various governments which support women without any true conviction or meaningful action.

Other women who favoured a quota system for women stressed that women's participation in all spheres is the cornerstone of any democracy.

Participation in the political sphere is a major demand for all women's movements around the globe, they stated.

Naelah Rashdan, member of the Upper House of Parliament, voiced her support for a women's quota system in Jordan.

"As long as we have quotas for Circassians and Christians, we should have a quota for women," she said, emphasising that Christian and Circassian women are able to reach Parliament through designated channels, while other women [do not benefit from such].

"The quota should be for all women," she stated.

Subsequent to a two-hour debate, the participants agreed on one major recommendation to be implemented as a short-term strategy or transitional stage for women whereas they will unify to implement quotas in the decision-making processes.

A long-term strategy would be to establish democratic regimes in all of the Arab World, participants added.

A Jordanian participant,

Helen Khoury, stated that due to undemocratic or partially democratic regimes in the Arab World, women's movements should create pressure groups to support women reach decision-making positions.

She described these changes as "from top to bottom" and added that a parallel level on which women should work is at the grassroots in order to establish democratic regimes.

"We must change patriarchal and undemocratic societies in which women are marginalised and treated as second if not third class citizens," Ms. Khoury asserted.

Director General of the Social Science Programme for the Middle East Region at the Ford Foundation Salim Nasr told the Jordan Times, that laws and regulations regarding women's political participation should be changed even if people's perceptions have not yet followed suit.

These laws, he said, could help in developing people's ideas regarding women's participation in the decision-making process as well as changing the culture and overcoming certain social taboos.

Pressure groups helping women run electoral campaigns should exist regardless of a particular woman candidate's ideology, according to Dr. Nasr.

"These pressure groups will help women candidates in conducting campaigns and crossing party lines as well as linking with groups operating in other countries," he said.

The proceedings of the conference, in which over 25 women participated from eight countries will be published in a book soon, Dr. Nasr concluded.



# NATO swoop on war crime suspects stuns Bosnian Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) — The sudden swoop on Bosnian Serb war crime suspects by British soldiers has shocked nationalist Serb leaders and signalled a tougher policy by NATO.

British special forces arrested one suspect and shot dead another Thursday in the first NATO operation against indicted war criminals since a Bosnian peace treaty was signed in 1995.

NATO said Simo Drijaca, a notorious Bosnian Serb police chief, was killed when he opened fire on soldiers trying to arrest him in the northwest Prijedor region.

Milan Kovacevic, a hospital director, was captured at work and flown to the Hague to face trial before the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal.

Both Mr. Kovacevic and Drijaca were wanted in connection with a genocidal campaign to deport Muslims and Croats. A Western official said they were both the subject of sealed indictments issued by the War Crimes Tribunal and were not officially aware they were liable to arrest.

The NATO action backed up tough rhetoric from the United States and its European allies amid increasing frustration with the slow-moving peace process in Bosnia.

"I think all those who are subject to indictment by the War Crimes Tribunal should be on notice that at some point in time they will be brought to justice," U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said.

Nationalist Bosnian Serb leaders appeared stunned by the news and their media accused NATO of "premeditated murder." But there was no violent backlash immediately after the action.

Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, looking shaken, called the operation "terrible" and told Serb television that it cast doubt on the viability of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

"We are totally surprised by this," she said.

Mrs. Plavsic said she had won promises from the United States that Drijaca's son and son-in-law, who were detained during the operation, would be released promptly.

A British soldier was wounded in the leg during the gun battle with Drijaca near a reservoir in Omarska.

Several British newspapers reported that the operation was carried out by members of the elite Special Air Services.

The Times said the crack troops were trained to operate with "extreme aggression" and Drijaca was cut down in a hail of fire as soon as he let off a round at the advancing soldiers.

Omarska, outside Prijedor, is associated with the war's most infamous detention camp, which Drijaca had told reporters was merely a harmless "transit centre."

NATO officers said "Operation Tango" did not mark a change in policy which had ruled out "manhunts" and

required soldiers to arrest suspects only if they encountered them during their regular duties.

Thursday's operation, however, broke new ground and raised expectations that the most prominent suspects, ex-President Radovan Karadzic and retired army commander Ratko Mladic, might be next.

Mr. Karadzic is one of 67 suspects on the tribunal's published list of indictees. He lives in the mountain village of Pale, outside Sarajevo, where he is guarded by heavily-armed police and continues to wield power behind the scenes.

Mr. Mladic, who keeps a low profile, was seen this week in the Yugoslav capital Belgrade where his family lives in an affluent suburb.

The British operation came amid a tense power struggle among Serb leaders, pitting Mrs. Plavsic against hardliners loyal to ex-President Karadzic.

NATO officers declined to say whether "Operation Tango" was over but said their troops in the 31,000-strong force were not placed on heightened alert.

There were indications that the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organisations had evacuated personnel from the Serb entity in Bosnia. International police monitors were staying put.

During the war, Serb forces abducted U.N. peacekeepers and used them as "human shields" to try to fend off NATO air strikes.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department warned Americans to be cautious if travelling in Serbia and Montenegro, saying the recent arrests of indicted war criminals in Croatia and Bosnia might spark tensions in former Yugoslavia.

"While these arrests have taken place outside of Serbia-Montenegro, the actions could result in heightened sensitivities among the local population, particularly on Serbia's borders with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia," the department said in a statement.

Russia Friday condemned the sudden swoop on Bosnian Serb war crime suspects by British soldiers, saying such "cowboy raids" threatened the Dayton peace process.

"Russia does not bear and does not intend to bear any responsibility for the consequences of such unilateral actions," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

"One must underline that such 'cowboy raids' threaten the whole Dayton peace process, which is in any case going through a difficult period," said the Russian Foreign Ministry statement, a copy of which was faxed to Reuters.

The statement hinted Russia, whose troops form part of the international SFOR peacekeeping force in Bosnia, might review its participation, saying: "The Russian leadership will draw the corresponding conclusions from this."



Protesters set fire to tyres in the middle of a busy highway in Bombay Friday. Ten people were killed when police opened fire on a mob angered by the desecration of a prominent social activist (Reuters photo)

## 10 killed as Indian police fire on protesters

BOMBAY (R) — Indian police Friday opened fire on a stone-throwing crowd on a busy highway in Bombay, killing 10 people, hospital sources said Friday.

The crowd had been provoked by what they saw as the desecration of a statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar, a revered leader of the lower social classes, police said.

It had been garlanded with shoes, considered a grave insult.

Ambedkar, known as the father of India's constitution, is treated like a god by the lower social classes in India's rigid Hindu caste system.

"Eight people were already dead when they were brought in," a doctor at a Bombay hospital told Reuters. "Two more succumbed to their injuries." The dead included a 12-year-old girl.

Police said earlier that four people had died from bullet wounds. They were

unable to confirm the latest report.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said 11 people had died in police fire.

Police said they had rushed a large force of special riot police to the scene of the shooting, Ghatkopar, 15 kilometres from Bombay city centre, and the situation was tense but under control.

When police reached the scene at 6.30 a.m. (0100 GMT) a crowd of Ambedkar supporters who had already surrounded the statue began pelting them with stones, police said. They also torched two vehicles.

Police said they had closed the busy highway near the statue. They could not say who was responsible for the garland.

PTI said Manohar Joshi, chief minister of Maharashtra state, would make a statement on the incident later Friday.

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## Floods kill 22 in Bangladesh

CHITTAGONG (R) — Floods caused by torrential rains have killed at least 22 people in southeastern Bangladesh, police and officials said Friday.

They said at least 30 people were injured, hundreds could be missing and tens of thousands were made homeless in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and the nearby hill districts.

Unofficial sources put the death toll at nearly 40, including nine on the Maheshkhali Island, where a landslide reportedly knocked down several homes.

"Most of the victims died in mudslides and a few were swept away by torrents of floodwater," one government official in Chittagong said.

"The death toll may go up as it is still raining heavily. Communications with many areas have been cut off," he said.

The flooding has hit areas of the country that were still recovering from a severe cyclone on May 19 that killed more than 100 people and injured thousands.

Major rivers in the south-east have burst their banks and rivers in other areas were rising fast, meteorology officials said Friday.

Unless the rain stops in the next 24 hours, much of the country would be inundated, one official said.

Two of the confirmed deaths were reported Thursday, of which one child died after being swept by floodwater in Cox's Bazar district and an 18-year-old male drowned while trying to get hold of a floating tree.

Of the 20 deaths reported Friday, 13 died in Rangamati town in Chittagong hill tracts, where tribal rebels have been fighting for autonomy for the past 23 years.

The victims perished under tonnes of mud sliding from the hills, which destroyed their houses," one local official told reporters.

Up to 50,000 people have been taken to flood shelters but at least half a million others were stranded in their half-submerged homes, officials said. Road links between Chittagong and neighbouring districts, including Cox's Bazar, have become impassable as floodwater washed away several small bridges and partly inundated highways.

## Hands off Kashmir, Indian leader warns OIC

JAMMU (AFP) — The leader of India's main Hindu Nationalist Party here Friday warned the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) nations not to meddle in the disputed state of Kashmir.

Lal Krishna Advani, president of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), said the OIC and Western nations should stay clear of the Himalayan state and not back Pakistani attempts to fuel separatist violence.

"It is no longer a secret that Pakistan's inter-services intelligence, which wields extra-constitutional powers, is the father of the

tries since their independence in 1947.

Pakistan holds the northern-third of Kashmir and India the rest. A separatist campaign in Indian-administered Kashmir has left around 20,000 dead since 1989.

Mr. Advani said recent foreign secretary-level talks, during which Pakistan called for new talks on Kashmir, between the two countries had created a "sense of illusion" that tensions had eased.

"But this is not the case because Pakistan continues to provide moral and material assistance to rebels in Kashmir," he claimed.

India and Pakistan both claim the Muslim-majority territory, which has sparked two wars between the coun-

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## Pakistan premier expands cabinet

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expanded his four-month-old cabinet Friday, naming nine new ministers and four (deputy) ministers of state, but he seemed to be facing a rift with a potential rival.

The newcomers, who were sworn in by President Farooq Leghari, increase the cabinet to 16 full ministers and five ministers of state, plus two present advisers with minister status.

The new ministers include veteran and young loyalists of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML), which took power in February after winning a landslide election victory against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

A significant omission from the list was Ejaz-Ul-Haq, son of late military ruler General Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq, amid newspaper reports of possible differences with the prime minister and the potential of staking a claim to party leadership in the future.

Mr. Ejaz, a senior PML vice-president who was a high-profile minister for labour, manpower and overseas Pakistanis in Mr. Sharif's previous cabinet from 1990 to 1993, declined to join the present cabinet in a meeting with the prime minister Thursday, local newspapers said.

He has been unhappy since Mr. Sharif, a one-time protégé of Gen. Zia, omitted him from the first batch of ministers named on Feb. 26.

The new ministers include senate leader Raja Zafarul Haq, who was given the religious affairs and minorities portfolio, and Abdul Majid Malik, a retired lieutenant-general who was given the Kashmir affairs, northern areas, states and frontier regions portfolio.

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## China floods claim 82 lives

BEIJING (AFP) — The death toll from China's summer floods jumped to 82 Friday, as flood waters swept eastwards, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless and raising concerns of epidemics.

The southern provinces of Guangdong and Guangxi remained the worst hit, with Guangxi reporting 29 dead as rainstorms continued unabated, flooding 37 districts and cities and affected nearly six million people.

"The situation has worsened considerably in the past two days," said a Chinese Red Cross official in Nanning, the provincial capital of Guangxi.

"We have taken special measures to guard against the growing risk of epidemics," the official said, adding that more than 12,500 homes had been destroyed throughout the province.

In neighbouring Guangdong, where more than 540,000 homes have been destroyed or severely damaged, the death toll remained at 41, a spokesman for the Provincial Flood Control Bureau said.

A total of 3.26 million people have been affected by the floods in Guang-

dong, which have so far caused direct economic losses estimated at more than 1.8 billion yuan (\$217 million).

Some 12 cities have suffered from excessive flooding, with Qingyuan — some 80 kilometres north of the provincial capital Guangzhou — the worst hit.

On Thursday, flooding in the eastern coastal province of Zhejiang where 12 people were reported to have died in raging torrents that left 430,000 stranded and damaged 80,000 houses.

"Rain is still falling and the situation is very complex at the moment," said an official at the Zhejiang Flood Control Headquarters.

Torrential rain in Zhejiang has affected 5.14 million people and flooded 226,780 hectares (560,146 acres) of farmland in 31 counties and cities.

Dykes burst on all three of the province's major rivers and the ensuing flood waters stopped production at more than 7,100 industrial and mining enterprises. Losses were estimated at more than three billion yuan (\$361 million). The floods have even touched neighbouring Shanghai, where

some 70 houses were damaged and large areas of suburban farmland inundated. Since the rainy season started June 25, Shanghai had drained off 165 million cubic metres (5.78 billion cubic feet) of water. A government spokesman in nearby Jiangxi said the province was strengthening its anti-flood defences in expectation of being the next victim.

"The water levels in rivers and reservoirs are already dangerously high, and with the predictions of more rain, we are doing what we can to shore up the banks," the official said.

The authorities in all the affected provinces have already mobilised tens of thousands of People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops to support the efforts of local residents and to help with emergency relief work.

China is wracked by floods during the summer rainy season every year. Some of the worst floods in recent memory hit eastern and southeastern China in 1996, killing more than 3,000 people and causing economic losses estimated at \$26.5 billion.

## U.S. Senate approves Tenet as CIA chief

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate voted late Thursday to approve President Bill Clinton's nomination of George Tenet as the nation's top spy master.

The voice vote came after the Senate Intelligence Committee earlier Thursday unanimously approved the nomination of Mr. Tenet, currently deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senator John Warner, a Virginia Republican who knew Mr. Tenet when Mr. Tenet was a senior staff member on the Senate Intelligence Committee, praised his professional abilities, character and judgment.

"I have confidence in him and I am confident that he will represent our country very well in this important post," Sen. Warner said in a statement before the vote.

Mr. Clinton tapped Mr. Tenet, 44, to become director of Central Intelligence Agency after Anthony Lake, the president's former national security adviser, withdrew his nomination in frustration over the confirmation process.

Mr. Tenet's nomination seemed likely to sail through the Senate intelligence panel, which had earlier confirmed him as deputy CIA director, until the Justice Department began investigating his failure to disclose his part-interest in stocks and real estate inherited from his father.

The Justice Department Wednesday removed that hurdle when it concluded a preliminary investigation into the matter and said it saw no need to appoint an independent counsel, paving the way for the Senate vote.

Mr. Tenet issued a statement moments after the vote, saying he was deeply honoured and vowing to "deliver intelligence that is clear, objective and does not pull punches."

## South Korean president's aide resigns over scandal

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's aide resigned Friday after a local newspaper reported that he had funnelled large sums of money from a businessman to Mr. Kim's son, a presidential spokesman said.

Joongang Ilbo newspaper reported Thursday that Kang Sang-II, Mr. Kim's secretary for personnel and finance affairs, delivered one billion won (\$1.1 million) to the president's second son, Kim Hyun-Chul, on behalf of a local contractor in June 1995.

The spokesman could not confirm if Mr. Kang was a go-between or the money was a kickback, but said Mr. Kang's resignation was accepted in view of controversy over the Joongang Ilbo report.

The daily said the money — 500 million won in cash stashed in a box and the remainder as a bank cheque — was given to Mr.

Kim Hyun-Chul shortly after Mr. Kang introduced the businessman to him.

Joongang said its report was based on prosecution investigation records submitted to a criminal court trying Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul. Prosecution officials declined to confirm the report.

The younger Mr. Kim is standing trial for bribery and tax evasion. State prosecutors accused him of taking kickbacks totalling 3.22 billion won (\$3.6 million) and evading taxes of 1.48 billion.

Joongang said it had access to the court records, which also showed that Mr. Kang had informed Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul of presidential blue house personnel changes.

Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul's arrest last May dealt a serious blow to the credibility of his father, who has been reduced to a lame-duck ahead of presidential elec-

tions in December. The president is barred from seeking reelection by the constitution.

Opposition parties have alleged that Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul is also the "real power" behind a loan scandal involving the failed Hanbo Steel Co.

The steelmaker collapsed in January under massive loans, revealing sleazy alliances among politicians, bankers and businessmen.

Last month, the founder of Hanbo, key presidential aides, politicians and top bankers were jailed for their roles in the Hanbo scandal.

Prosecutors have cleared Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul of any wrongdoing in the Hanbo affair but have indicted him for accepting money in return for favours to businessmen in connection with cable television deals and a road-building contract.

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Rescue workers pick through the ruins of a collapsed six-story office building in the city of Cumana, about 410 kilometres east of Caracas in search of survivors. The building was destroyed after a powerful quake measuring 6.9 on the Richter Scale rocked Venezuela's Caribbean coast Wednesday (Reuter photo)

## Venezuelan rescuers seek children in quake ruins

CARIACO (R) — Grappling with broken concrete and twisted steel, rescuers frantically dug holes through the rubble Thursday to reach victims of an earthquake that devastated eastern Venezuela, killing at least 59 people.

Firemen, working in rain for the second night, tried to pass a 50 feet (15 metres) oxygen hose to survivors buried by the quake that crushed children in their classrooms and left 322 wounded and 500 families homeless, according to official figures.

"We want to pass a pipe some four of five stories down and pump in oxygen," local Civil Defence Chief Francisco Espina said.

Two year-old infants and an 81-year old man were among the dead counted as workers continued to pull bodies from the collapsed six-

floor Seguros La Seguridad office block in Cumana.

A French citizen was among those killed, but no other foreign deaths were reported.

Seismological office Funvis said gentle aftershocks were still being felt along the coast, registering 4.0 on the Richter Scale, although no further damage was reported.

In Cumana, fireman Manuel Santana said he had counted 23 dead but that about 26 people were still trapped under the office building. Some of those people might be alive.

"Hope is the last thing we will lose," he said.

Officials acknowledged the death toll could rise from the worst earthquake to hit Venezuela for 30 years.

Schools were razed by the quake, which measured 6.9 on the Richter Scale, trap-

ping or killing scores of high school students sitting end of term exams.

In the tiny nearby town of Caricao, 470 kilometres east of Caracas, firemen worked to free the bodies of children trapped under the ruined Raimundo Martinez Centeno High School.

Amid fallen bricks and scattered exercise books, the search continued for missing children after at least 34 bodies were recovered. For many, Thursday was to have been their last day of school before the summer holidays.

At least 27 pupils were rescued after a class escaped through an 18-inch (40 cm) gap in the crumbled stonework.

Mothers sobbed as President Rafael Caldera paid a brief visit to the area. "Our houses are ruined our children dead," said one woman. Mr. Caldera, at 81 Latin

America's eldest leader, declared three days of national mourning.

But with power, telephone and water supplies still cut, Caricao School Director Eliezer Sanchez denounced the government's relief efforts.

"They are focusing all their efforts on the school but the whole village is devastated."

Mr. Sanchez said more than 200 houses had been destroyed, leaving the town's 13,000 survivors to sleep on plastic sheets in the debris-strewn streets or gather in small groups in the town stadium. Local authorities declared a curfew.

Along the small villages that lined the recently reopened 60 kilometres highway between Cumana and Caricao, survivors lit candles and spent the night sitting on plastic chairs in improvised shelters.

## Northern Ireland's Orange Order cancels marches

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland's Orange Order performed an about-turn on generations of stubborn opposition Friday and cancelled a series of contentious parades to avoid igniting further violent Catholic opposition.

The centuries-old organisation said in a statement its decision had been taken "for the greater good of the province" after the worst week of violence for decades.

It blamed the upheaval on its ideological foes, Sinn Fein, political wing of IRA guerrillas fighting British rule of the province and supported by the minority Catholic population.

But it called off flashpoint parades planned Saturday, the most cherished day in its calendar, in Belfast's Lower Ormeau Road, Armagh and Newry and rerouted another march in Londonderry to avoid igniting further anger.

Catholic groups had threatened to swamp Belfast and Londonderry with mass protest and political sources said security chiefs told leaders of the organisation it could not guarantee the safety of marchers.

The decision was a major concession to Catholic Irish Nationalists and was warmly welcomed by Britain and Ireland as a boost for their joint Northern Ireland peace process.

But it angered hardline members of the organisation who saw it as a surrender to Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army (IRA), who have fought British rule of Northern Ireland for more than a generation.

Joel Patton, leader of the far-right Spirit of Drumree group, told reporters: "It isn't a compromise. It's a capitulation."

He disputed predictions that the concession might persuade the IRA to call a new ceasefire, the price that Britain has demanded for its entry into Northern Ireland peace talks.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams quickly issued a statement welcoming a decision he had campaigned for years.

"I welcome these decisions and acknowledge their significance," he said. "I wish it had been made earlier."

It ended a standoff between the order and Catholic resi-

dent's associations who had threatened demonstrations to block the parades, which they regard as sectarian intimidation.

The parades are held on the "Glorious 12th" of July, which marks a 1690 victory by a Protestant king over an invading Catholic monarch. It is the organisation's most cherished day.

Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Mo Mowlam, said the decision would "be received with a great deal of relief and appreciation in Northern Ireland and beyond."

A spokesman for Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said: "It is a very positive gesture by the Orange Order. The government believes it deserves an equally positive response from Nationalists."

Jeffrey Donaldson, an Orange leader, said: "These decisions were decisions of local lodges. This is not something that was imposed on them. I must say they have my utmost admiration."

Police had voiced serious concern about the Lower Ormeau Road march, scene of violent confrontation in recent years.

The decision not to parade in the Belfast suburb was announced by the local Ballynafeigh Orange Lodge at the Protestant end of the Lower Ormeau Road.

Outside the lodge a small but angry crowd gathered, plainly displeased at the decision. They jostled journalists, shouting obscenities and forcing them away from the lodge entrance.

The order, which wants to maintain the province's 300-year-old union with Britain, had come under intense pressure to cancel the parades after week-long violence caused by a march through a Catholic area in the town of Portadown last Sunday.

A radical IRA splinter group, the Irish National Liberation Army, had threatened to attack Orange Order members if they paraded along the Lower Ormeau Road.

## U.N. envoy starts peace mission to Afghanistan

TEHRAN (AFP) — The U.N.'s special representative to Afghanistan, Norbert Holl, is on a peace mission to the north of the war-torn country where he has met with anti-Taliban opposition leaders, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported Friday.

Mr. Holl, a German, met Thursday with former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Uzbek General Abdul Malik in the opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif, the agency said.

He also had talks with Abdul Rahim Ghafourzi, "foreign minister" of the anti-Taliban alliance, who criticised the United Nations for not coming up with proposals to end the civil war.

Mr. Ghafourzi told IRNA that Mr. Holl, chief of the U.N. special mission for Afghanistan, "came here after several months just to listen to the point of view of the united opposition."

Mr. Holl, speaking on Pakistan Television Wednesday, said the first step in a settlement would be a ceasefire, adding it was also "very important to consider exchange of the wounded and other prisoners" to move towards the "final target" of a broad-based government.

Gen. Malik, Mr. Rabbani and the Shiite Muslim Hezb-i-Wahdat faction form an anti-Taliban coalition.

The Taliban militia controls about two thirds of Afghanistan with 22 provinces in its possession against the

opposition's eight.

Shiite Muslim Iran supports the anti-Taliban forces and is fiercely opposed to the Sunni Muslim fundamentalist militia.

It has accused Pakistan of giving political and military support to the Taliban, with the backing of the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, a senior Pakistani official trying to mediate peace between the Afghan rivals said Wednesday his talks with Taliban leaders had marked a "step forward" in the process.

Ifkhar Murshid, who met with the Taliban militia's acting Foreign Minister Mullah Abdul Jalil in Kandahar in southwest Afghanistan, said he would travel to the northern city of Mazar-i-

Sharif in a couple of days.

"There is a step forward in that they (the Taliban) are willing to consider in a positive manner the proposed formation of a joint council" with the opposition to work towards a settlement, Mr. Murshid told AFP.

Meanwhile, the Islamic militia's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, demanded Wednesday the immediate release of all Taliban prisoners held in the north by the opposition, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported.

In a statement from Kandahar, Mr. Omar warned the opposition it would be responsible for the "consequences" if the prisoners were harmed, according to the Pakistan-based private information service.

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## Dangers in NATO expansion

NATO'S RECENT decision in Madrid to extend its arm eastward and invite Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join the alliance, calls for deep reflection and assessment. Above all, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), needs to redefine its role and articulate its objectives in a world that has considerably changed since the collapse of the "communist threat" in the late 1980s. Should NATO keep on expanding in Europe, there would come a point in time when the international community would become divided between the Western civilisation and the other eastern civilisations and cultures. An exclusive club based solely on Western ideals and cultures would propel a reaction from other peoples and countries in a manner that could endanger international peace and harmony.

The implications for us in the Middle East are obvious. In a relatively short time, Israel would also be invited to join the Western club, making Israel's defences invincible and its military might and threat against its neighbours limitless. A combination of NATO membership and a right-wing Israeli government could whet Israeli hardliners' appetite for expansion.

NATO's raison d'être was comprehensible when the international community was divided on a bipolar basis, between West and East. Now, for all intents and purposes, the world is unipolar, with the U.S. the only superpower. Continuous expansion of NATO, therefore, would surely impel other regional powers and like-minded civilisations to regroup and assert themselves in due course. Additional expansion of NATO worldwide would surely set the international stage for a response, whether from China, Japan, India or Latin America. History is replete with examples of how empires rose and fell. An enlarged NATO would not differ from the Roman Empire which pushed eastward only to ignite a reaction that ended with its defeat.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour expressed the view that a decision by the Muslim Brotherhood to boycott the 1997 general elections will have no effect at all on the government's decision to hold the elections on schedule. Ibrahim Daoud said that the Muslim Brotherhood's decision is bound to weaken the Islamist cause and not the government's will, especially as members of the Islamic Action Front have expressed desire to participate in the elections, regardless of the Muslim Brotherhood's decision. When the Muslim Brotherhood decided to boycott the elections, because they were disenchanted with the Islamic Action Front's performance in parliament and because the government is adamant regarding the temporary laws and the one-person, one-vote system, they were counting on the leftists and other opposition groups to join them in boycotting the elections, noted the writer. He said that this is unlikely to happen since the other groups have already expressed determination to participate in the elections in order to deprive the government of the chance to act at will without any opposition in parliament. The writer said it is to be regretted that the Muslim Brotherhood is withdrawing from the elections arena because they are frustrating their popular base by deciding to refrain from developing the democratic process in Jordan.

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm criticised the present academic courses in Jordanian private and public universities for failing to enable the graduates find jobs and contribute to their country's development. Mousa Barhouneh said that the schools and the community colleges, as well as the universities, in Jordan have been turning out thousands of graduates, many of whom remain idle, searching for jobs without any chance of getting them. He said that the majority of the graduates shun taking up manual jobs or assuming work that has been taken for years by non-Jordanians, like working in restaurants, bakeries or gas stations. The writer said that the summer holidays in Jordan have been witnessing manifestations of joy, by graduates, for finishing school or college, but the joy soon turns sour when the graduates start the futile task of finding jobs. He said that unless the universities help the graduates adapt to the needs of the Jordanian labour market, the hopes of the young graduates will continue to end up in thin air.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Islamists' boycotting the elections makes constituents the real losers

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THE MOVE by the Islamists to boycott the next parliamentary elections clearly shows a lack of awareness of the basic foundation of democracy: no one can hope to gain anything by staying out of the legislative process and people have to interact with the system to make points and have a say in policy making and in monitoring the executive authority's performance.

Beyond that, however, is the implication of the Islamists' decision. Quite simply, it signals a decisive break from the way Jordan's political life has continued over the decades.

Most Jordanians cannot agree more with the assertion by the Islamists that "the decision to boycott is hard" while "it is easy to participate." By the same token, it also raises the question of whether the Islamist leadership, as represented by the Muslim Brotherhood, did give enough thought to the ramifications of their decision.

For one thing, the deliberate absence of the Islamists from the polls will definitely break the pattern of political participation that we in Jordan are proud of. It is a pattern that was woven more than 50 years ago and the consistent and effective representation of the Islamists in Jordan's political arena has always been a feature of life in the Kingdom.

An Islamist boycott of the next elections will not be a simple message against the Elections Law, as the Islamist leadership asserts: it will be a boycott of the regime itself, and that, in itself, has far-reaching repercussions for the Islamists and the people that the Islamists say they represent.

By staying away from the polls this time around, the Islamists will be making a mockery of the great respect that we Jordanians have for the Islamist movement, despite political and ideological differences, some of

which are fundamental and strategic while others crop up now and then over tactics.

It is indeed a matter of pride for us in Jordan that the Kingdom was the first country where Islamists not only entered the legislature through democratic elections but also served in the executive authority.

Suffice it to refer to the contemporary situation in Algeria and Egypt in this respect. The Islamist movement in Jordan is known for moderation, diplomacy and the political skills of its leaders that have been clearly evident in the way the movement handled some of the thorniest issues that confronted us over the years. They made sure their voice was heard loud and clear not only in Jordan but also throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds. No doubt, that the so-called fans of the Jordanian Islamists will be taken back to hear of their models' decision to adopt a defeatist approach.

One consoling thought, however, is the lukewarm response the Brotherhood's decision to boycott the polls has drawn from the mainstream Islamist political party, the Islamic Action Front (IAF). It reaffirms the belief that the political front of the Islamists is more pragmatic and realistic than the Brotherhood leadership and highlights that logic could have its way in the end.

On the other hand, the arguments that the Islamists put up to support the decision to stay away from the elections simply do not hold much water. If the Islamists were not successful in blocking parliamentary endorsement of Jordan's peace treaty with Israel, that was simply because they did not have enough voting clout in the legislature. That takes up back to the question of why the Islamists did not have that clout — something that they blame on the one-person, one-vote system.

Again, there is a serious flaw in the Islamists' rejection of the one-person, one-vote system. While they want the

trimmings and workings of an effective legislature as it performs anywhere else in the world, they, very conveniently, side-step the reality that their democratic model or models are also based on the same one-person, one-vote formula. It then boils down to a simple equation of having your cake and eating it too.

The one-person, one-vote formula is the universally accepted principle for legislative representation and the majority of Jordanians fail to see why we should be any different.

Then there is the Islamist argument that the law itself was amended with the sole purpose of reducing the Islamist presence in parliament, as it did in the 1993 elections. But four years have passed since then and one would have assumed that the intelligent leadership of the Islamists would have concentrated more on working from within the law to gain ground ahead of the next elections rather than pinning hopes on defeating the law in parliament.

It is now obvious that their assessments show that they have no option but to base their election chances on roughly the same number of people who voted for them in 1993 if they were to participate. As such, the ideal situation for the Islamists would be elected from every constituency with the help of their traditional supporters who are confined to certain numbers. But that is not the way democracy works, and our Islamists would be much better off to realise, respect and accept that reality.

In the meantime, the long and short of their call for a boycott of the election is that the real losers, as a result, will be the constituents they represent who will be deprived of the opportunity to have their voice heard in parliament.

## Writers admonish Muslim Brotherhood for decision to boycott elections

REVIEWED BY  
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE JORDANIAN papers this week highlighted a decision by the Muslim Brotherhood to boycott this year's general elections, discussed issues pertaining to democracy and parliamentary life in Jordan and tackled matters of concern to political parties, in addition to other local and pan-Arab affairs.

A writer for Al Dustour commented on the Muslim Brotherhood's decision, by saying it is bound to create splits within the Islamic Movement in Jordan.

Mohammad Subeithi said that the Muslim Brotherhood must have been motivated to boycott the elections by its apprehension of the coming elections' results, as some of its leading members feel that their popularity has weakened recently.

But, he said, the move has already alienated the Islamic Action Front (IAF) whose members have decided to disregard the Brotherhood's decision.

The writer said that according to some observers, the decision is a manifestation of the Brotherhood's desire to reimpose its hegemony on the IAF and has come as a result of internal differences.

Hamadeh Faraneh, a writer for Al Dustour, said the IAF has the right to take any decision, regardless of the Muslim Brotherhood's stand. But, he said, the IAF is facing a real dilemma because if it moves against the Muslim Brotherhood, it will be facing splits within the Islamic Movement and if it complies with the decision and refrains from participating in the elections, it will be losing its popular base.

The writer said that the IAF is disturbed because if it pulls out of the ring, it will be leaving the field to the National Constitutional Party and other parties and will be losing the chance to express its opposition to the government's normalisation process with Israel and other issues of concern to the public.

A writer for Al Arab Al Yawm said that if the Islamists go ahead with their plans and boycott the elections, they will live for four years, that is until the next elections, isolated and exposed to splits and disintegration.

Hilmi Asmar said that it is

regrettable to see the Muslim Brotherhood pull out of the race especially that many circles are gloating over the decision and their withdrawal from the field will enhance the executive-authority's position and will encourage the government to further besiege the Islamists.

Withdrawal from the field, said the writer, is a declaration of total failure in confronting the developments and the political situation in Jordan and the region, he charged.

Furthermore, he said, the boycott will create an atmosphere propitious for splits within the ranks of the Islamic Movement.

In the view of Jihad Momani, a writer for Al Dustour, the decision to boycott the elections came as a result of the divisions and differences among the members of the movement that have been going on for a long time.

Some leading members of the Muslim Brotherhood have been advocating changes and new political stands to cater to the requirements of the political situation in the region, noted the writer.

He said divisions were also reported within the IAF ranks, with some of its members calling for joining the government and going against the majority in this issue.

He said that the Muslim Brotherhood should have consulted with the IAF leadership before taking this serious decision so as to avoid any splits within the movement.

A writer for Al Arab Al Yawm said that the Muslim Brotherhood has taken a rash and uncalculated decision and expressed hope that its leadership will reconsider the move because of its serious consequences to the Islamic Movement itself, as well as the nation.

Mufid Nahleh said that if the decision to boycott the elections was taken on the strength of the internal differences or the Brotherhood's adamant stand on the government's temporary laws, the public should not be deprived of opposition to the government and of the voice of the IAF regarding these temporary laws.

Expressing hope that the decision will be reversed, the writer said that boycotting the elections is an escape from responsibility

towards the electorate and the public as a whole.

A writer for Al Arab Al Yawm urged the public in general and Jordanian women in particular to register for the coming elections, stressing that democracy is the responsibility of all members of the community.

Zuleikha Abu Rishah said she noticed with regret the indifference among members of the public in the 1989 and 1993 general elections and their failure to vote, saying that one should not wait for miracles to make democracy move ahead while the public shies away from the polling stations.

The writer said that women organisations should shoulder their responsibilities not only by registering and taking part in the elections themselves but also by encouraging their husbands and other members of their families to follow suit.

Women, she said, have to exercise their role in paving the ground for a better, democratic future for their nation.

A writer for Al Arab Al Yawm criticised the political parties which rejected the idea of the Ministry of Interior's scrutinising their budgets and financial accounts, saying that they are bound by the parties law to accept such a practice.

Mohammad Subeithi said that according to law, the Jordanian parties should not be receiving financial backing from parties abroad and it is rather in their own interest to submit their financial situation to the Ministry of Interior in order to prove their stand and show that they receive no external funding.

The writer said that there have been some accusations directed against political parties concerning their financial sources and the ministry's examination of these parties' accounts presents a golden chance for them to prove that all the accusations are unfounded and groundless.

A writer for Al Arab Al Yawm reflected on the recent public opinion poll conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan on the performance of the Majali government during the first 100 days of its mandate.

Fahed Faneh said that the government's popularity seems to have declined, according to the poll's results, but this should not

disturb the government since experience has shown that governments' popularity tends to decline because the public is normally affected by the course of events and developments and the government's response to them.

The writer referred in particular to the figures which showed that the public trusts the government in holding fair and free elections, something, said the writer, which is causing some embarrassment to those boycotting the elections.

It was natural to see the government lose ground in view of its temporary laws, like that on press and publications, said the writer, adding that the results show that the centre is unbiased, dedicated to exposing the right views of the public and worth of winning credibility.

He said that some people who are not happy with the results have regrettably attacked the centre and levelled unjust accusations against its staff.

A writer for Al Dustour commented on reports that some Christian and Muslim personalities are preparing to submit an application for licence to create an Arab democratic Christian party in Jordan, saying that since Jordan gave licence to an Islamic party, it is logical to give a licence to a Christian party.

Denying the new political group the right to create a party means applying double-standard policies towards political factions in Jordan, said Oreib Rintawi.

He said the problem lies with the political parties' law itself, because it failed to impose restrictions against any group trying to set up a political party based on religion or religious basis.

Saleh Qallah, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm, tackled the question of emigration of Christian Arabs to the West, and the United States in particular.

He said that though there are no accurate statistics about this migration yet, it is appalling, very serious and affecting the number of Christians, especially in Iraq, Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon.

The writer said that over the past two decades, thousands of Christian Arabs emigrated mainly because of economic difficulties and for security and political reasons. He said that the

emergence of the strong Islamic movement and the tendency of some Islamists to exercise violence against Christians, especially in Algeria and Egypt, was another cause for such emigration.

This emigration is dangerous since it deprives Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt and

Lebanon from the pluralism which has for centuries helped promote economic and cultural life in the Arab World and, therefore, the Arab governments should step in and stop the bleeding and prevent violence directed against Christian Arabs who form an important and integral part of the Arab society.

## LETTERS

### Two sides of the story

To the Editor:

I WAS very disappointed when I read the article "No judgement without proof" (Jordan Times, July 7, 1997). I would like to make a point to the anonymous writer about her experience with her ex-maid. What happened to the girls who recently were sent to the Philippines is not at all the same case.

I am puzzled by the writer's asking Ms. Asfour if she fully knew both sides of the story. To my knowledge, it was not only Ms. Asfour who knew the full story, so was the Philippines embassy. So why not phone the embassy and find out about it? If the writer knew how much these girls suffered and how long Ms. Asfour waited for the consulate to help the girls before she became involved, she would thank her for spending time and effort to just make things work out.

And how could she compare her situation to that of the two Filipinas? If these girls had been happy and treated well, they wouldn't have needed to sneak phone calls to the embassy and their sister and they wouldn't have thought to leave their employer before finishing their contract. These girls could have run away when the consul requested to see them; instead, they followed the instructions of the staff at the embassy and tried to resolve their problems the proper way. These girls were patient and strong and tried their best in every way, hoping that their employer and the embassy would work things out so that they would be released.

I agree that people are not the same; it is obvious that the writer and these girls' employer are not the same kind of people. I also agree that sometimes people lie; employers are not always honest either.

MJP Alorro,  
Amman.

### Proof there for seeker

To the Editor:

INSTEAD OF casting doubts upon my facts, the nameless writer of the letter "No judgement without proof" only needed to phone the Philippines consulate to have my information verified. As in all aspects of life, there are good people and there are bad, and this applies to employers and domestic workers equally.

In this particular case, the record speaks for itself. Three domestics ran away from this one household and after months of suffering, the two remaining were finally released due to pressure from the minister of interior. This makes, in just over a year, a total of five who either escaped or were sent home. Is this enough proof? Does this sound like a happy working environment or does this sound like a domestic's worst nightmare?

Karen Asfour,  
Amman.

Features

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## EU envoy sees time ripe to upgrade Jordan's economy to world standards

By Ghalia Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan must upgrade its economy to international standards in order to bear fruit from its partnership agreement with the European Union (EU), according to the Head of the Delegation of the European Communities in Jordan, Yves Gazzo.

"If you want to upgrade the economy to international standards this is the right time to do it," Mr. Gazzo said Wednesday.

In a lecture organised by the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), Mr. Gazzo reviewed the Jordan-EU relationship and the partnership agreement both sides initiated on the sidelines of April's Euro-Mediterranean conference in Malta.

Mr. Gazzo ruled out that Spain's recent blocking of the Jordan-EU partnership agreement would affect its signing.

"I'm sure we will find a solution soon," he affirmed.

Earlier this month Spain vetoed the partnership agreement in protest against the size of Jordan's tomato paste quota saying it was too large.

Mr. Gazzo said the EU started to support Jordan since both sides signed the protocol of cooperation in 1978 by lending the Kingdom ECU 250 million for infrastructure, water and waste

water treatment projects. He said the EU has also adopted the MEDA programme which allocated a budget of European Currency Units (ECUs) 4.6 billion (\$5.8 million) in grants for the Mediterranean countries for the year 1996-1999.

The MEDA programme provides assistance for economic reforms in eligible countries and encourages better regional and cross-border cooperation.

Mr. Gazzo recalled that the EU and Jordan last year signed a financial agreement under which the EU allocated ECU 100 million (\$128 million) in support of the Kingdom's balance of payments.

A tranche of 60 million ECU has already been dispersed, and the second tranche is expected to be released soon, said Mr. Gazzo.

The EU will also grant Jordan ECU 7 million in support of the Kingdom's efforts to modernise the economy Mr. Gazzo added.

"The objective is to encourage Jordanian exports to European markets," he said.

Mr. Gazzo said the Medpartariat conference, which will open Saturday, will enhance the economic cooperation between Jordan and the EU.

He added that the meeting will also encourage the establishment of joint Jordanian-European ventures and thus facilitate access to EU markets.

## Euro-Mediterranean conference opens today

By Ghalia Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives from about 350 European and 150 Jordanian companies will Saturday gather at the Euro-Mediterranean conference to try to enhance economic cooperation between countries of the Mediterranean region and the EU.

The three-day conference, which is organised by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO) in cooperation with the EU, will be geared towards setting up joint Jordanian-European ventures and creating a suitable environment for growth of small and medium-size enterprises.

Jordanian officials earlier said the conference, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will help SMEs to cope with competition worldwide.

The meeting, to be attended by representatives from 22 Israeli companies, will tackle the Euro-Mediterranean partnership aimed at creating a free trade area by the year 2010.

Participants will also highlight investment and export opportunities in Jordan as well as incentives brought about by the new set of economic legislation in the country.

A Jordanian official earlier said the meeting will encourage technology transfer from Europe to Jordan, adding that it will also set the ground for an increase in trade exchange between the two sides.

The official hoped that Saturday's meeting will narrow the deficit in the balance of trade between Jordan and Europe.

"The average of our imports from Europe is \$800 million annually. The average of our annual exports is only \$100 million," he said.

The conference will be the fourth event of the Medpartariat after similar gatherings were held in Turkey, Morocco and Israel.

The European Commission has contributed ECU 466,666 to assist JEDCCO in preparing for the major economic gathering, according to a statement by the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Jordan.

The statement said the European Commissioner Christos Papoutis arrived in Amman Friday on a four-day official visit in which he will address the inaugural ceremony.

## Syria needs to revamp economy — study

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A Syrian government study has called for basic changes in the national economy if the country is to meet the conditions of economic partnership with the European Union (EU).

The study published in the

official Tishrin newspaper advised an overhaul of Syria's "institutional, investment and industrial structure" and warned that the local manufacturing industry would be the biggest loser in a Euro-Med free trade zone because of its

"poor quality." In Barcelona in 1995, 15 EU states and 12 countries around the Mediterranean committed themselves to the creation of a free trade zone by 2010 and to forging new security and political ties. The study said that Syria

would also have to reform its economy to meet the criteria of the new World Trade Organisation established by GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Joint EU-Syrian committees have already begun talks to reduce customs and duties gradually by a target date of 2010.

But Syria was one of the Arab states that argued strongly during a follow-up meeting in Malta in April that a collapse of the Middle East peace process will scupper attempts to construct long-term economic ties between Europe and the Mediterranean.

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## The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7688	0.9331	1.4600	113.65	1.3700	1716.20	1.3608	5.9790
DE Mark	0.5654	1.0000	0.8331	0.8248	64.36	0.7741	968.97	1.1264	3.3746
GB Sterling	1.0849	2.9975	1.0000	2.4724	192.50	2.3220	2905.05	3.3732	10.1207
CH Franc	0.6849	1.2109	0.4036	1.0000	77.57	0.8381	1174.32	136.40	4.0885
JP Yen	0.0088	1.5550	0.5185	1.2822	1.0000	1.2044	15.09	175.02	5.2519
CA Dollar	0.7298	1.2758	0.4316	1.0682	1.20	1.0000	1243.27	1.4373	4.3027
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0294	0.3432	0.0850	1512.63	0.7975	1.0000	11.59	3.4776
NL Guilder	0.5023	0.8863	0.2961	0.7328	57.85	0.6877	861.56	1.0000	2.9887
FR Franc	0.1674	0.2960	0.0987	0.24210	19.00	0.2283	33.32	33.3200	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7500	0.3770	3.6400	0.3023	3.6725	1534.50	3.3875
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2986	0.5325	5.1412	0.4268	5.1871	2167.37	4.7846
GB Sterling	0.2667	0.1858	0.7000	0.1005	0.97	0.0806	0.98	408.20	0.9033
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8790	9.9489	1.0000	9.68	0.8017	9.74	4070.29	8.9544
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0302	1.0000	1.00	0.0830	1.01	421.57	0.9306
Kuwait Dinar	3.3085	2.3424	12.4089	1.2473	12.04	1.00	12.15	5078.92	8.9306
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0127	0.9912	0.0823	1.00	417.84	0.9224
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4614	2.4438	0.2457	2.3721	0.1970	2.3833	1.0000	2.2076
Egyptian	0.2852	0.2090	1.1070	0.1113	1.0745	0.0882	1.0841	452.99	1.0000

Energy									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
Oil: Last	18.49	18.57	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18
Brent	18.49	18.57	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18
WTI	18.49	18.57	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18
Bonny	18.49	18.57	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18
Dubai	18.49	18.57	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18
UL Gas	179.00	179.00	179.00	179.00	179.00	179.00	179.00	179.00	179.00

Metal Prices									
Metal	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
Gold (oz's)	319.5	320	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Silver (oz's)	4.36	4.4	0.408	0.408	0.408	0.408	0.408	0.408	0.408
Platinum (oz's)	1568	1568	2272	2273	2273	2273	2273	2273	2273
AL (3 Months)	1475	1477	1475	1477	1475	1477	1475	1477	1475
CU (3 Months)	667	668	667	668	667	668	667	668	667
Zinc (3 Months)	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470
Lead (3 Months)	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470
Ni (3 Months)	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470	6490	6470

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
USD	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77	5.85	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77
GBP	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77	5.85	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77
JPY	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77	5.85	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77
DEM	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77	5.85	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77
FRF	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77	5.85	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77
CHF	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77	5.85	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77
ITL	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77	5.85	5.66	5.55	5.71	5.77

Main Equity Indices									
Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cl	Value	Chng	% Chng
New York	7919.1	32.34	0.41	7921.14	7887.21	7886.76	New York	7919.1	32.34
DOW JONES	7919.1	32.34	0.41	7921.14	7887.21	7886.76	DOW JONES	7919.1	32.34
S&P 500	915.79	2.01	0.22	916.03	913.11	913.78	S&P 500	915.79	2.01
FT-SE 100	4797.4	29.5	0.62	4800.1	4765.5	4767.8	FT-SE 100	4797.4	29.5
Nikkei 225	19875.49	120.71	0.61	19882.6	19842.9	19754.8	Nikkei 225	19875.49	120.71
CAC 40	2940.47	11.38	0.39	2944.46	2928.38	2928.09	CAC 40	2940.47	11.38
DAX	4040.97	48.59	1.22	4050.41	4017.38	3992.38	DAX	4040.97	48.59

Energy									
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Commodity	Last	Delivery	Commodity	Last	Delivery	Commodity
Coffee (c/lbs)	179.17	Spot	Coffee (c/lbs)	179.17	Spot	Coffee (c/lbs)	179.17	Spot	Coffee (c/lbs)
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1622	Spot	Cocoa (\$/ton)	1622	Spot	Cocoa (\$/ton)	1622	Spot	Cocoa (\$/ton)
Sugar (\$/ton)	324	Spot	Sugar (\$/ton)	324	Spot	Sugar (\$/ton)	324	Spot	Sugar (\$/ton)
Wheat (\$/ton)	147.5	Spot	Wheat (\$/ton)	147.5	Spot	Wheat (\$/ton)	147.5	Spot	Wheat (\$/ton)
Soyas (c/lbs)	21.84	Spot	Soyas (c/lbs)	21.84	Spot	Soyas (c/lbs)	21.84	Spot	Soyas (c/lbs)
Tea (c/lbs)	128	Spot	Tea (c/lbs)	128	Spot	Tea (c/lbs)	128	Spot	Tea (c/lbs)
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	Barley (\$/bsh)
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	Rice (\$/ton)

## THE Daily Crossword


ACROSS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1 Mild oath	13				14					15		
5 Eve's son												16
9 Baltic port												
13 Okay												
15 Defendant's declaration												
16 Arabian gulf												
17 Cards												
20 With more suet												
21 Appears pleased												
22 Kind of cup												
23 Pump												
24 Cards												
32 Deceive												
33 Trail the field												
34 Ginie —												
35 Scandinavian king												
36 "Ivanhoe" author												
38 Gossip												
39 Depressed												
40 Omery												
41 Titan												
42 Cards												
46 Loathing												
47 — Baba												
48 Budget amount												
51 Great weight												
56 Cards												
59 List closer												
60 Pupil, perhaps												
61 Drama list												
62 Name in electronics												
63 Actress Best												
64 Shut in												

by Richard Thomas

## Puzzle solved:

I	G	O	R	R	O	T	C	T	O	D	O	
M	A	R	E	R	O	D	E	R	A	V	O	
A	R	A	B	O	P	E	R	A	C	A	L	
B	L	E	B	E	R	R	H	I	L	L		
T	R	E	E	O								
P	O	S	T	E	R	M	O	N	T	C	H	E
L	A	N	A	T	A	S	T	C	H	E	A	P
A	S	O	L	D	A	S	T	H	E	H	I	L
T	E	R	S	E	H	O	A	X	L	I	K	E
E	S	E	B	E	E	R	P	A	L	E	S	T
			O				C	R	A	S		
K	I	N	G	O	F	F	T	H	E	H	I	L
E	N	O	S	E	D	A	R	I	E	S	L	O
B	E	T	E	D	A	R	I	E	S	L	O	G
B	E	A	T	D	E	P	P	Y	S	E	R	

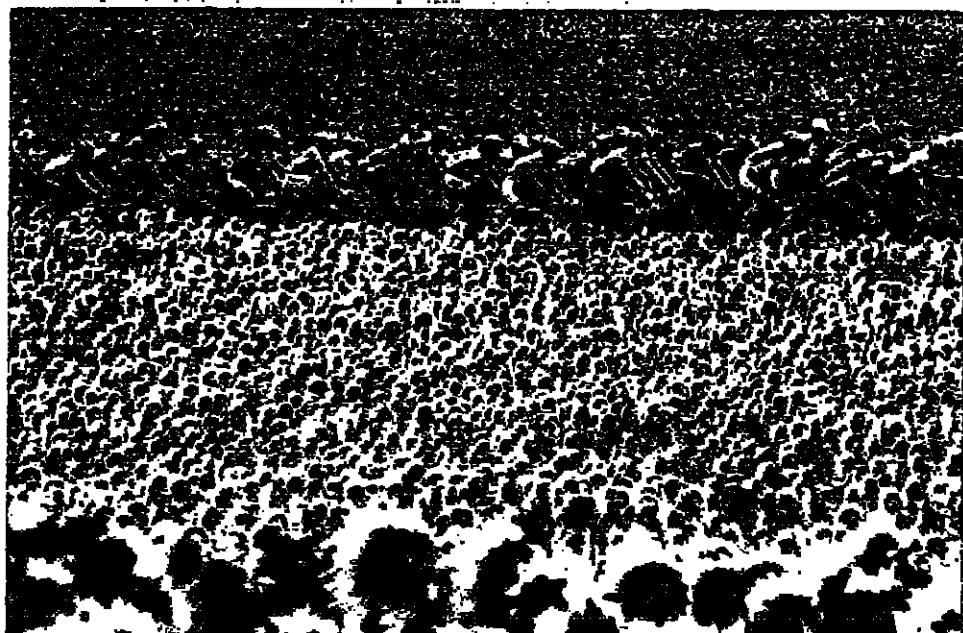


AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET																
HOISING BANK CENTER AMMAN JORDAN																
TELEPHONE 67171 / 67172																
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (05/07/1997 - 09/07/1997)																
WEEKLY REPORT																
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES EXECUTED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS	
HIGH	LOW															
264.500	251.000	ARAB BANK	12.4	1.40	82	2860	756535	261.50	270.00	262.00	270.00	+ 6.50	264.522	0.065	5	
2.150	2.010	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	135	86050	178115	2.10	2.10	2.05	2.05	- .05	2.070	2.05	5	
5.720	5.650	CATNO AMMAN BANK	12.0	2.59	9	4400	25275	5.70	5.80	5.70	5.80	+ .10	5.744	.044	2	
3.540	3.120	BANK OF JORDAN	6.8	0.00	12	50510	164193	3.00	3.28	3.25	3.25	- .05	3.250	.041	2	
.980	.930	KID. EAST INV. BK.	61.1	0.00	1	100	93	.94	.93	.93	.93	- .01	.930	.001	1	
2.80	2.200	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.2	7.38	13	15050	33800	2.26	2.28	2.23	2.23	- .05	2.246	.138	1	
4.100	4.870	THE HOUSING BK.	16.4	3.16	14	2771	13660	4.00	4.98	4.90	4.90	- .10	4.930	.011	3	
4.180	2.960	JOR. MOUNTAIN BANK	10.1	0.00	95	49777	136759	3.25	3.20	2.85	2.85	- .40	3.041	.450	4	
.520	.860	JOR. GULF BANK	5.1	8.14	22	38000	32785	.87	.88	.85	.86	- .01	.863	.190	5	
3.790	3.590	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	3.16	107	52697	193283	3.78	3.87	3.74	3.80	+ .02	3.782	.361	5	
1.250	1.110	UNION BK. INV. INV.	6	0.00	6	2600	3026	1.18	1.17	1.16	1.16	- .02	1.164	.024	1	
3.000	3.100	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	10.9	0.00	9	2028	6277	3.13	3.23	3.08	3.10	- .03	3.095	.020	3	
1.190	1.060	BRIT. AL-MAL (BETINA)	-	13.16	15	5550	6355	1.16	1.16	1.13	1.14	- .02	1.145	.278	3	
2.080	1.070	PRILLADEL. INV. BK.	-	0.00	20	8217	8402	1.03	1.04	1.02	1.02	- .01	1.023	.002	3	
BANKS SECTOR 542 315631 1564621 INDEX NUMBER : 203.52 CHANGE : + 1.184																
2.800	2.800	JORDAN INSURANCE	11.6	5.54	2	11400	30780	2.80	2.70	2.70	2.70	- .10	2.700	.228	1	
3.330	3.330	HIDDEN EAST INSUR.	18.7	3.17	1	50000	175000	3.33	3.50	3.50	3.50	+ .17	3.500	2.273	1	
4.000	3.800	JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.6	5.13	1	100	390	3.85	3.90	3.90	3.90	+ .05	3.900	.009	1	
1.700	2.660	JOR. PERSIAN INSUR.	4.6	12.20	14	3996	6631	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	- .02	1.659	.152	1	
2.500	2.500	KHAROUT INSUR.	10.3	7.73	1	150	281	2.50	2.54	2.54	2.54	+ .04	2.540	.015	1	
3.200	1.960	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.2	4.76	1	100	210	2.20	2.10	2.10	2.10	- .10	2.100	.005	1	
2.450	1.990	JORDAN GULF INSUR.	-	0.00	6	1750	3962	2.21	2.44	2.21	2.22	- .11	2.260	.156	3	
2.180	2.180	ARAB INTL. INVT. INSUR.	8.7	4.59	1	2000	4360	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	-	2.180	.250	1	
INSURANCE SECTOR 27 69498 231624 INDEX NUMBER : 112.82 CHANGE : - 1.184																
1.680	1.630	JOR. ELECTRIC PAR.	7.9	6.10	55	20767	34386	1.67	1.67	1.64	1.64	- .03	1.656	.138	5	
8.000	8.000	JOR. INVEST. TOURISM	11.5	1.38	1	3780	30240	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	-	8.000	.076	1	
1.400	1.350	INVEST. ELECTRICITY	8.2	8.33	6	1650	2240	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	-	1.380	.055	5	
2.450	2.550	KHAR. MINERALAS	12.4	6.37	1	250	613	2.55	2.45	2.45	2.45	- .10	2.452	.215	1	
8.500	5.000	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	15.4	4.00	3	202	1000	5.20	5.00	5.00	5.00	- .20	4.950	.002	2	
2.620	2.600	SHIPPING LINES	15.5	4.89	20	36893	97356	2.61	2.66	2.60	2.66	+ .05	2.636	.532	4	
1.240	1.150	KHAR. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	274	203337	281336	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.42	+ .08	1.382	.407	1	
.840	.840	KHAR. EXCHANGE TRF.	12.7	6.90	1	200	2678	.84	.84	.84	.84	-	.840	.051	1	
.520	.520	ARAB INTL. TRAD.	26.7	0.00	5	2950	1493	.50	.52	.50	.52	+ .02	.506	.071	3	
1.410	1.230	KID. EAST HOTELS	18.4	0.00	8	9250	12295	1.25	1.27	1.20	1.21	- .04	1.221	.181	3	
3.020	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EXCH.	7.7	0.00	20	8387	24594	2.91	2.94	2.92	2.93	+ .02	2.932	.083	4	
.990	.940	KARMA EDUCATION	-	0.00	17	5658	5259	.94	.94	.93	.93	- .01	.931	.112	3	
1.720	1.650	UNITED CO.	8.0	6.55	10	5600	9445	1.71	1.70	1.67	1.68	- .03	1.687	.126	3	
.710	.660	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	5	450	306	.68	.68	.67	.67	- .01	.676	.009	3	
SERVICES SECTOR 433 301766 501576 INDEX NUMBER : 107.53 CHANGE : - 1.051																
4.170	4.010	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.3	2.71	178	378846	154478	4.07	4.10	4.06	4.06	- .01	4.078	.637	5	
4.080	3.900	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.4	2.44	27	102680	415535	4.00	4.10	4.00	4.10	+ .10	4.047	.233	5	
6.750	6.600	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.5	3.01	6	4000	26575	6.65	6.65	6.60	6.65	-	6.644	.005	1	
9.820	9.800	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	9.08	49	977	48829	9.75	9.90	9.75	9.81	+ .06	9.811	.078	5	
2.000	1.880	INDUSTRIAL COM. BANK	-	0.00	13	2980	5412	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.77	- .11	1.810	.060	4	
4.500	6.300	JOR. MOUNTED METALS	9.7	3.33	2	250	1523	6.30	6.15	6.00	6.00	- .30	6.092	.006	2	
4.010	3.800	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	10.9	5.05	145	34780	139138	4.01	4.10	3.92	3.96	- .05	4.001	.386	5	
6.800	6.550	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	6.7	3.06	1	50	327	6.55	6.54	6.54	6.54	- .01	6.540	.002	1	
2.540	2.320	JORDAN DAIRY	8.1	10.19	2	200	476	2.36	2.40	2.36	2.40	+ .04	2.380	.011	1	
1.400	1.370	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	16.4	5.97	5	1100	1484	1.37	1.35	1.34	1.34	- .01	1.349	.034	3	
7.050	6.800	ARAB CHEM. DURLEN.	37.9	5.15	3	300	1843	6.80	6.86	5.83	5.83	- .97	6.143	.065	3	
1.130	1.130	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	-	0.00	3	12100	13068	1.13	1.08	1.08	1.08	- .05	1.080	.120	2	
5.650	5.380	DAR ALDAMA DQ. INV.	13.0	4.72	15	6922	36765	5.45	5.45	5.30	5.30	- .15	5.311	.115	4	
2.930	2.710	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.7	10.25	36	10250	26031	2.71	2.70	2.73	2.44	- .27	2.540	.171	2	
.490	.460	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	80	47250	21832	.46	.47	.46	.46	- .04	.462	.143	5	
1.050	1.250	ARAB PAPER CO.	30.6	0.00	13	8050	8095	1.04	1.03	1.00	1.00	- .04	1.014	.244	3	
1.030	.980	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	2	500	480	.98	.98	.96	.96	- .02	.960	.013	1	
.550	.520	NATIONAL INDOS.	-	0.00	16	16850	8654	.52	.52	.51	.52	-	.514	.281	5	
.630	.570	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	151	123357	65191	.58	.57	.51	.52	- .06	.528	3.084	5	
.610	.560	JOR. ROCCONOL. INDOS.	-	0.00	6	4350	2480	.57	.57	.57	.57	-	.570	.145	2	
1.800	1.800	UNIV. CHEM. INDOS.	15.4	5.85	1	150	257	1.80	1.71	1.71	1.71	- .09	1.713	.010	1	
2.650	2.500	KARMA CABLE WIRE. WYAC	40.1	0.00	6	5	4000	10000	2.50	2.50	2.18	2.58	-	2.500	.080	2
.600	.550	JOR. SULPHO. CHEM.	-	0.00	35	17180	9497	.59	.58	.54	.55	- .04	.553	.382	5	
1.410	1.370	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.4	5.15	35	11700	16094	1.41	1.41	1.36	1.36	- .05	1.376	.734	5	
1.010	1.010	KARMA INVEST.	84.7	0.00	5	650	57	1.01	.98	.86	.86	- .15	.888	.033	3	
1.390	1.200	UNIV. NON. INDOS.	448.1	.22	77	46350	55216	1.27	1.27	1.17	1.18	- .09	1.191	.927	5	
1.320	1.480	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	14.5	9.26	34	32850	13118	1.10	1.10	1.08	1.08	- .02	1.089	.251	5	
1.000	1.450	KARMA TEXTILE	13.5	4.90	15	9592	14487	1.48	1.58	1.43	1.43	- .05	1.510	.333	4	
.910	.830	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	65	32018	26190	.86	.84	.81	.83	- .03	.818	.400	4	
1.530	1.420	EL -RAY READY WEAR	51.0	0.00	10	1237	1801	1.47	1.45	1.45	1.45	- .05	1.456	.016	4	
1.160	1.080	UNIV. TOBACCO	6.1	0.00	51	56400	62208	1.10	1.12	1.09	1.12	+ .02	1.105	.564	5	
.980	.870	UNION CH. & VEG.	39.6	0.00	13	14650	12752	.87	.88	.87	.87	-	.870	.262	4	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR 1081 946326 2591574 INDEX NUMBER : 127.49 CHANGE : - 0.217																
GRAND TOTAL 2083 1653419 4879395 INDEX NUMBER : 161.39 CHANGE : + 0.464																
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.400	.400	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	44.9	0.00	18	12750	4961	.40	.40	.38	.39	- .01	.389	.255	4	
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.450	.440	KARMA TEXTILE	13.5	4.90	15	9592	14487	.47	.47	.45	.47	+ .01	.451	.350	4	
.510	.510	KARMA DYES & MONDS	-	0.00	2	750	355	.51	.48	.46	.46	- .05	.473	.050	2	
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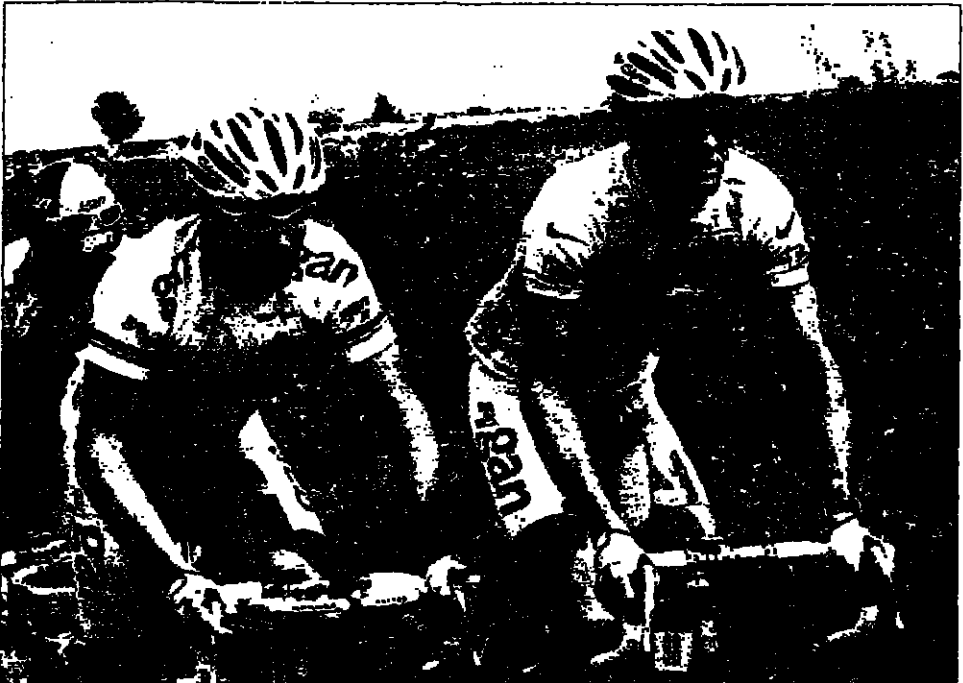








Riders of the Tour de France pass through a field of sunflowers during the 215.5km sixth stage of the cycling race between Le Blanc and Marennes, July 11. France's Cedric Vasseur is the current yellow-jersey holder (Reuters photo)



France's yellow jersey holder Cedric Vasseur (R) leads the pack with his Australian teammate Stuart O'Grady (L) during the 215.5km sixth stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Le Blanc and Marennes, July 11 (Reuters photo)

## China sets sixth world weightlifting record

BEIJING (R) — China set its sixth world record in three days when Chen Xiaomin snatched 107.5 kg in the women's 64 kg division at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, the Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

Chen smashed the previous world snatch record of 106 kg set by China's Li Hongyun in May last year and won all three categories in the division on Thursday, Xinhua said.

After breaking the record, the 20-year-old Chen lifted 127.5 kg in the clean and jerk to total 235 kg, it said.

Chinese weightlifters have set six world records in the first three days of the championships in China's southeastern city of Yangzhou, it said.

China's Yang Xia set two world records on Wednesday when she snatched 93.5 kg and totalled 207.5 kg in the women's 54 kg division while Liu Xihua set a clean and jerk world record for the women's 54 kg class with a lift of 115.5 kg.

Earlier, China's Wan Jianhui broke the snatch world record, snatching 163 kg at his third attempt, and won all three gold medals in the men's 70 kg category.

China's Xing Fen broke the clean and jerk world mark with a lift of 105.5 kg in the women's 46 kg division on Tuesday.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Germans offer cash to medallists

BONN (R) — German competitors bidding for gold at next year's winter Olympics will have the extra incentive of a 30,000 mark (\$17,000) cash bonus, the German Sports Federation (DSB) said on Thursday. Athletes who clinch a silver medal at the games, to be held in Nagano in Japan, will receive 20,000 marks (\$11,300). Bronze medallists will get 15,000 marks (\$8,500) from the Institute of German Sport Aid. Armin Baumert, a DSB director, said between 130 and 150 athletes would make up the German team at the Olympics which take place next February.

### Pierce doubtful for Fed Cup semi

NICE, France (R) — France's top women's player Mary Pierce is doubtful for the Fed Cup world group semifinal tie against Belgium this weekend. Pierce, ranked ninth in the world, is suffering the same pains in her arm which troubled her at Wimbledon. "We're following Mary's development on a daily basis," French team captain Yannick Noah said on Thursday. A final decision will be made shortly before the draw. Noah gave his team an even chance of beating the Belgians, who sprang a surprise with a 5-0 rout of Spain in the first round in March. "Between the two teams I think it's 50-50. And that's not just a way of handling the pressure to say that. I really think it will be a balanced match," said Noah, also France's Davis Cup men's team captain.

**JORDAN TIMES**  
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# 8th Pan-Arab Games open tonight

## Organisers refuse Jordan's protest of basketball draw

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 8th Pan-Arab Games open in Beirut Saturday evening with athletes from 19 countries taking part in the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

Only Somalia and the Comoros Islands will not be taking part and the organising committee Friday announced that Iraqi athletes would miss the Games in light of a threat from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the biggest sponsors of the event, to boycott the Games if Iraq took part (see story on page 1).

Jordan's soccer, basketball, athletics, fencing, boxing, and weightlifting teams in addition to medical and press officials left Amman Friday to take part in the opening ceremony and then start their respective competitions.

The rest of the delegation will leave later on, with each team arriving in Beirut one day prior to its event and leaving following the end of their respective competitions in order to cut down on cost of participation.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation in the two-week long event includes 94 men and 33 women athletes competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Twenty events have been set for the Games excluding kick-boxing, handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and the entry form now includes participation in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

As the countdown began for the competition, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) received a negative response from Lebanese officials to a protest letter demanding a repeat of the basketball draw which was held Monday.

Officials said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw and an oral one would not be accepted now.

According to competition rules, if 9 teams are taking part they should be divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

However, Lebanese officials divided the competing teams into two groups



The logo of the 8th Pan-Arab Games



The official mascot

in clear violation of the competition regulations.

The JBF had said they would reconsider their participation in both the men's and women's events, however, the head of the Kingdom's delegation Sari Hamdan said Jordan would not pull out of any event since that is no longer the affair of respective federations but a decision that rested with the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) and the Ministry of Youth.

Basketball is scheduled to be the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Prior to his departure to Lebanon, Jordan's Minister of Youth and Sports Qassem Abu Ein said athletes winning gold medals would receive JD500, silver medals JD300, and bronze medals JD200.

Team sports will receive JD3000, JD2000 and JD1000 respectively. The minimum criteria for participation as set by the JOC's technical committee includes attaining at least a halfway standing in addition to passing a mandatory medical test in order to rule out any possible injury.

The Games will include random drug-testing for the first time in the event's history and reports said 300 samples would be taken during the two-week long Games in which 3000 athletes will be competing.

Random samples will be taken daily from athletes in different sports regardless of their results in competitions. Test results will be sent to the French laboratories of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Athletes testing positive will have their results automatically scrapped and will later be suspended according to international rules. No such tests had been done in Arab countries so far because of the high cost of about \$220 per test and the unavailability of such labs in the developing countries.

Jordan has received preliminary approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 1999 and the Jordanian sports officials announced their full support of the event noting the importance of taking part in the Games which have only been held seven times since 1953.

Jordan had finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Hosts Syria topped the medals table with 48 points, 31 silver, 37 bronze followed by Egypt and Algeria.

The event was due to be held last year but was postponed after the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

## Hakkinen leads after free practice

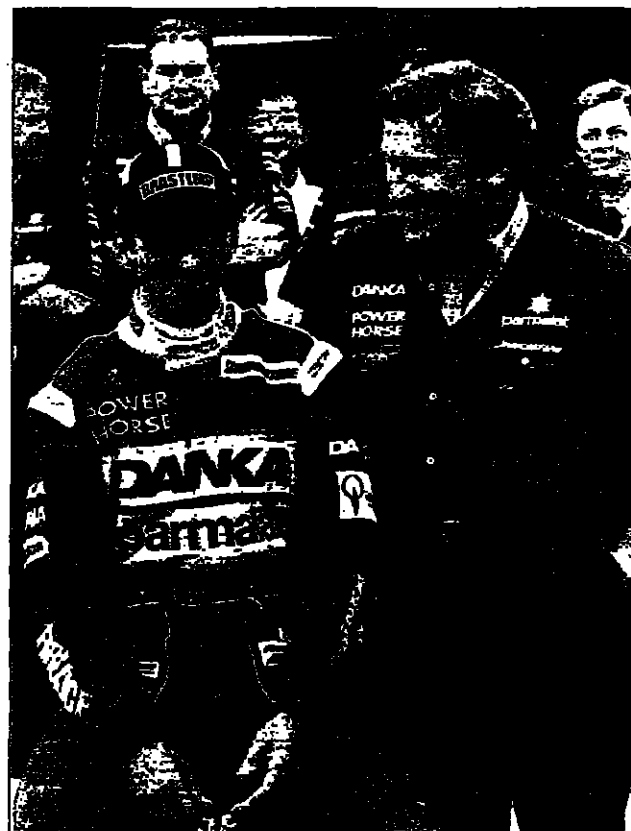
SILVERSTONE (AP) — Mika Hakkinen, in his fifth Formula One season and still looking for his first victory, clocked the quickest time in Friday's free practice sessions for Sunday's British Grand Prix.

Hakkinen, driving for McLaren Mercedes, clocked 1 minute 22.935 seconds with Jacques Villeneuve in a Williams-Renault in second in 1:23.266.

Villeneuve's teammate at Williams — Heinz-Harald Frentzen — was third with a time of 1:23.327 followed by Johnny Herbert in a Sauber petronas in 1:23.581 and Jean Alesi of Benetton in 1:23.785.

Michael Schumacher, the points leader this season after eight races and the winner of the last two Grand Prix races, had the seventh fastest time of 1:24.132.

Defending world champion Damon Hill driving for Arrows-Yamaha, who has finished only two of eight races this season, was 20th of 22 cars in 1:26.810. Hill and team owner Tom



Arrows formula one driver Damon Hill (L) and his team manager Tom Walkinshaw speak to reporters at Silverstone (Reuters photo)

Walkinshaw have been at odds recently over the car's performance with Hill blaming an under-powered engine and Walkinshaw blaming Hill for being unmotivated.

Hill has hinted he will leave the team if a new engine isn't forthcoming.

## Graf goes down to 5th in latest WTA rankings

MIAMI (AFP) — Women's world rankings published by world governing body WTA following the conclusion of the Wimbledon championships:

1. Martina Hingis (Swi)	5778 Pts
2. Jana Novotna (Cze)	3556
3. Monica Seles (USA)	3181
4. Iva Majoli (Cro)	3165
5. Steffi Graf (Ger)	2680
6. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa)	2545
7. Lindsay Davenport (USA)	2437
8. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa)	2436
9. Anke Huber (Ger)	2256
10. Mary Pierce (Fra)	2201
11. Conchita Martinez (Spa)	2100
12. Irina Spirlea (Rom)	1871
13. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA)	1708
14. Brenda Schultz (Ned)	1579
15. Kimberly Po (USA)	1577
16. Barbara Paulus (Aut)	1442
17. Ruxandra Dragomir (Rom)	1421
18. Karina Habsudova (Svk)	1405
19. Sabine Appelmans (Bel)	1325
20. Sandrine Testud (Fra)	1148

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Children look at a mural on a wall on the Lower Ormeau Road, South Belfast Thursday, expressing Nationalist anger following a parade by Orange men along the Garvaghy Road. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam is caricatured at right, blind folded and washing her hands, while the figure at left in uniform is a reference to the Royal Ulster Constabulary (AFP photo)

## Netanyahu wages 'phony' political war

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has taken to papering over the crevasses in his warring coalition by bombarding troublesome ministers with short, intense and meaningless phone calls, a news report said Friday.

The Yediot Aharonot newspaper said that during the recent three-week government reshuffle crisis, while Mr. Netanyahu juggled job offers in a bid to satisfy competing factions, he hit on a bizarre cure to his problems. "Netanyahu has a patented cure for ministerial anger. Bombard them with telephone calls. Each call creates greater expectations that prevent an explosion at least until the next call," said the paper.

In particular, the paper said,

the premier used this bombarding tactic with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who was demanding the finance minister's job and involvement in the peace process.

Quoting deep-throat sources, the paper cited three calls in one day while the political crisis was raging. Mr. Netanyahu uses Mr. Sharon's nickname Arik:

— "Arik, I want to consult with you."

— "I am at your service, prime minister."

— "Are you on a cordless or corded telephone?"

— "I am on a cordless phone."

— "That is not good. When will you be on a corded phone?"

— "In two hours."

— "I'll catch you then."

Two hours later the crisis has worsened, and Mr. Netanyahu calls Mr. Sharon.

— "Arik, can we talk now?"

— "Go ahead."

— "Are you on a cordless or corded phone?"

— "Corded."

— (Embarrassed) "Yes, but now I am on a cordless."

— "Hm-mm."

— "All right then, let's talk later when I am on a corded phone."

Two hours later, the crisis is now at its peak. Mr. Netanyahu phones Mr. Sharon and greets him like a long lost brother.

— "Arik, hi! How is it going?"

— (Coldly) "Nothing new"

— "Are you on a cordless or corded phone?"

— "Corded."

— "So am I. Very good."

Listen, I think we should sit down and talk. I think the thing I want you about is not for the telephone."

The paper says that after each call the news bulletins, after judicious briefing by the premier's aides, report that Mr. Netanyahu consulted with Mr. Sharon on "diplomatic affairs."

It concludes that not only has Mr. Netanyahu kept Mr. Sharon, nicknamed The Bulldozer, at bay for 24 hours but he has also convinced the public that frantic diplomatic discussions are in progress.

Mr. Netanyahu's relationship with Mr. Sharon reached new lows this week after the premier snatched the finance job from him at the last minute and gave it to a close friend.

## Egypt enforces ban on female excision

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government will not allow female circumcision in hospitals despite a court ruling which declared a ban on the practice null and void, Health Minister Ismail Sallam said in remarks published on Friday.

Mr. Sallam, quoted in the government newspaper Al Akhbar, said his ministry was challenging the ruling in a higher court, the Supreme Administrative Court.

A lower court, championing the radical Islamist cause against the government, said in June that the minister did not have the authority to ban the ancient practice by decree.

Human rights and feminist groups deplored the ruling, saying it gave doctors the green light to continue female circumcision, also known as

female genital mutilation because of the severe and dangerous forms it often takes.

Some Islamists say the practice is Islamic, though the operation is rarely performed outside African countries and many Muslims dispute the textual authority for it.

Al Akhbar said Mr. Sallam told a conference in the city of Alexandria: "The decision to ban female circumcision was a sound decision, in line with the proper concept of religion. Linking female circumcision with Islam is an insult to the religion."

"He said that the ministry was challenging the verdict in the Supreme Administrative Court and that he would not allow the operation to be performed in hospitals," the paper added.

In previous cases where the government has lost law suits, it has reserved the right to ignore the court ruling until the case completes all stages of the legal process.

In the operation, usually performed on pre-pubescent girls, the doctor or barber cuts off part or all of the clitoris and other genitalia. Sometimes they sew the vaginal opening or even the labia together. Side-effects include haemorrhage, shock and sexual dysfunction.

Women's rights activists estimate around 6,000 girls a day across the world undergo female circumcision.

According to a government study performed earlier this year, 97 per cent of 14,779 Egyptian women polled had been circumcised.

## Spanish politician believed kidnapped by separatists

MADRID (R) — Spain has said a town councillor in the Basque region has disappeared and is assumed to have been kidnapped by ETA Basque separatists who have threatened to kill him in 48 hours.

A caller saying he was from ETA told a director at Basque radio Egin, ETA's usual mouthpiece, that Miguel Angel Blanco would be killed if the government did not move Basque prisoners nearer to their homeland. Mr. Blanco is a member of Spain's ruling Popular Party.

"We can confirm that Miguel Angel Blanco has disappeared," Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja told a news conference Thursday after meeting Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

"We find ourselves faced with duress, a threat and

blackmail, although this is not a simple challenge to the government, but a challenge to society," he said.

Mr. Blanco, a town councillor in Ermua, was last seen just after 3 p.m. Thursday leaving his house to catch a train for work in the nearby town of Eibar, Mr. Oreja said.

Shortly afterwards, Egin received the call.

"There was a call by the terrorist band ETA to Egin communicating the kidnapping of Mr. Blanco and saying if the government doesn't move all the ETA prisoners closer to the Basque region before Saturday at 4 p.m. They will assassinate him," Interior Ministry spokesman Cayetano Gonzalez said.

ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) has been pushing the Popular Party government to move imprisoned members to jails in the

Basque region. Under a long-standing policy, they are scattered around the country.

A Popular Party spokesman, Angel Acebes, said the government would stand firm on its policy toward the separatist guerrillas and would not bend to their demands.

"Once more the Popular Party reiterates that in ETA's actions of blackmail and terror there must be no distinctions in the way we treat different victims," he told a news conference.

The kidnapping poured cold water on the euphoria that followed the freeing of two ETA hostages last week.

"In the last few days we have shared moments of true happiness and today regretfully we must share moments of anxiety for the life of Miguel Angel," Mr. Oreja said.

### American Airlines flight lands for an aspirin

DETROIT (R) — An American Airlines flight made an unscheduled stop in Detroit after a passenger said she needed an aspirin so badly she could kill someone. After the plane landed, police took the passenger, a 29-year-old California woman, into custody for questioning by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Flight 2074 had taken off from Chicago on its way to Newark, N.J., when the woman said, "Boy, have I got a headache. I need an aspirin before I kill someone." It was unclear to whom the woman made the comment, but it was quickly relayed to the pilot, who notified Detroit airport officials. Police were dispatched to escort the woman off the plane. "The airline took it very seriously,"

### Snacks for the love-hungry — chips to whet your sexual appetite

OSLO (AFP) — For the love-hungry whose sex life needs a little pick-me-up, a medical professor in Norway has developed fried chips that increase sexual desire and are guaranteed to make you a "wild beast in the bedroom." "Yes, it works," I swear," Magné Osnes told the Norwegian daily Dagbladet, adding he has a Norwegian patent on the product that works for both men and women. "Everybody that has eaten them has been overjoyed," he said. The Oslo University professor said it takes a few hours for the chips — which look and taste like traditional potato chips, but are made of cleansed bull testicles which have been dried, salted and fried — to take effect. "They contain various anti-oxidants, minerals and B and E vitamins. B vitamins especially affect our ability to enjoy and sense things," he said.

### Sarah Netanyahu's ex-husband faces judicial gag over memoirs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli court on Friday moved to stop the ex-husband of first lady Sarah Netanyahu cashing in on their failed marriage with a kiss-and-tell memoir. A court banned Doron Neuberger from "publishing any document or recording of his ex-wife which could damage her image or her privacy," said judicial sources. Neuberger told the press here earlier this week that he was planning to go ahead and publish his book about life with Benjamin Netanyahu's wife in the 1980s using five video cassettes recorded as therapy and a 93-page letter written by Sarah to his parents as their marriage crumbled. He said he was publishing the material because he was furious at accusations by Sarah that he had recorded her in secret. "What the world knows now is just the tip of the iceberg," Neuberger warned.

### Miss Canada stripped of crown after assault conviction

ST. JOHN'S (AFP) — Danielle House, elected Miss Canada last year, was stripped of her title after being convicted of assaulting another woman in a bar, pageant organisers said Thursday. The director of the pageant, Sylvia Stark, said she asked House, 20, to give back her crown following her conviction in a Newfoundland court Wednesday. The role of Miss Canada "is not only to be beautiful" but "to be an example to young people." The court gave House a one-year suspended sentence for assaulting her former boyfriend's new female companion October 18. The decision to depose House comes only a month ahead of the next pageant to find her successor on August 11.

## Who is NATO's enemy?

By Lannis Andoni  
in Boston

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton's success in securing European support to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to include the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary was viewed here as a major American diplomatic victory. Yet the question that remains ambiguous, based on the little debate on the issue, is who is NATO's enemy?

With the exception of very few commentators, like Daniel Shore of National Public Radio, most American politicians and analysts do not raise or answer the question regarding the target of NATO. William Safire, a former aide of the cold war, is one of the few who bluntly state that the expansion is aimed at deterring "a resurgence of Russia" as a super power. In his column in the New York Times, Mr. Safire, a former official in the Richard Nixon administration, argued that Russia remains a threat to the West.

"The essential reason for bringing the formerly captive nations of Eastern Europe into the successful military alliance is to deter any future power in Europe by a resurgence of Russia," he wrote.

"Now is the strategic moment to prevent such a resurgence appearing. An ounce of easy expansion today is worth a tonne of confrontation tomorrow. Russia is down but far from out with its literate population and unlimited resources, now or subdued by communism, it will regain its superpower status soon," Mr. Safire, usually a critic of Mr. Clinton's policies, said.

careful not to mention any of the former Soviet republics as potential candidates for NATO membership.

In the American media, so far, most of the defenders of NATO expansion have been the old cold-warriors who either want to ensure the U.S. sole superpower status or still see communism lurking in every corner. Yom Novak, a former broadcaster for the CIA-backed anti-communist radio, Europe, put forward another theory. "This is the beginning of these countries' reintegration into the Western spirit," Mr. Novak, who fled Poland after World War II, said in defence of NATO expansion.

Mr. Novak's thinking reflects the old cold-warriors' school that argued that Western values are exclusively compatible with capitalism. According to his school of thought, Russia and some Eastern European countries are not yet free from the old guard former communist bureaucrats.

Consequently, an expansion of NATO is, from this view point, crucial for defeating "the old guard," and stem the communist influence forever.

Some Congress members and politicians, mainly in the liberal camp, express strong reservations that NATO expansion, and the implied anti-Russian tone, could be counterproductive to efforts to integrate Russia in the U.S.-led Western system. They argue that Russia, and all those left outside, will feel threatened and intimidated by the move.

Thus the strongest argument against NATO expansion so far has been that the resulting polarisation of Europe could defeat one of the most of the important goals for the move — ensuring the continent's stability.

In the journal "Problem of Post-communism," He argued that the move will repolarise Europe and alienate Russia. "Moscow may question its commitment to nuclear down sizing and cooperation."

The administration, however, does not define the presumed enemy leaving the question open. "... Could you please tell us who is the enemy?" asked the respected Shore in a recent commentary. Shore was also frustrated at the lack of a serious debate, in the mainstream media and the Washington establishment, about who is the enemy that NATO is supposed to counter.

Instead, the debate that exists focuses on questions regarding the financial and military cost of the expansion to the U.S. The Congress estimates the expansion to cost \$19 billion in the next fifteen years. The administration estimates the cost at \$0 per cent less.

Some members of the Congress and the Senate are also wary of the military commitment that is entailed in NATO expansion. "Is it a commitment of blood and money?" is one question that is being raised in some political circles who are wary of a future U.S. entanglement in conflicts in Europe.

The administration, however, has repeatedly argued that NATO expansion was the necessary step to prevent and preempt further conflict in Europe — a point that is in question by opponents of the move who fear more instability in the continent.

Mr. Clinton has ample time to convince the Senate that will not start discussing the treaty amendment till early next year. He needs two thirds for the vote for a ratification — which he is expected to get unless the predictions about a deterioration of stability in Europe, from the resulting polarisation, prove to be true earlier than expected, as some analysts caution.

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